VOL 17 No 10 OCTOBER 1987

SURVEY of Current Affairs

Government and Administration

Northern Ireland: Community Relations and Equality of Opportunity 311
Control of Firearms 312
Shorter Notes
British Citizenship 313; Lenient Sentences 313; Offensive Weapons 313

External Affairs and Defence

British Foreign Policy 314
Debt Relief for Africa 315
Fiji 316
Shorter Note
Sino-British Friendship Scholarship Scheme 317

Economic and Scientific Affairs

Chancellor's Speech at International Monetary Fund Meeting 318
Building Consultancy Overseas 319
Tourism 325
Shorter Notes
Invisible Trade 328; Derelict Land Clearance 328; Eureka Conference 329; Montreal Agreement on Stratospheric Ozone 329

Social and Cultural Affairs

Housing 331
The Misuse of Drugs in Sport 334
Shorter Notes
Ministerial Group on Alcohol Misuse 334; Drugs Statistics 335; The Open College 335; The London Compact 335; New Broadcasting Standards Council 335

Documentation 336

Prepared for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by Reference Services, Central Office of Information and published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London

Annual subscriptions including postage and index £23·50

The *Survey of Current Affairs* is produced primarily for use overseas, but in response to requests has also been made available in Britain. Subscription and distribution inquiries should be addressed to HMSO Books, P.O. Box 276, London SW8 5DT, and editorial inquiries to Reference Services, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7DU. Although the material is Crown Copyright, it may be reproduced without special permission.
Other documents produced by Reference Services, if not on sale through Her Majesty's Stationery Office, may be obtained direct from the Overseas Distribution Unit, Central Office of Information, at the above address on payment of a small charge.

Northern Ireland: Community Relations and Equality of Opportunity

New arrangements aimed at improving relations between the two traditions in Northern Ireland, including grants to promote cross-community contacts between young people, have been announced by the Government. Revised guidelines have been published on measures to promote equality of opportunity between Roman Catholics and Protestants in employment.

Community Relations

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Tom King, is to set up a Central Community Relations Unit which will report directly to him on all aspects of relations between the two communities in Northern Ireland. Speaking at a reception at Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland on 8 September, at which some 100 representatives of organisations involved in community relations work were present, Mr King said that means had to be found for the two traditions to live together with a sense of community. After over 2,500 deaths in Northern Ireland [since 1969] it was surely time for everyone to recognise that the only sensible future rested on learning to live together. The Government's policies had to be based on: seeking full equality of opportunity and equity of treatment between the two traditions; winning acceptance for that principle throughout the community; and acknowledging and respecting genuine difference where it existed in a way which did not diminish or threaten the rights of either tradition. Contact between the two traditions had to be increased in order to erode prejudice and suspicion and build upon the many things they had in common. The Government would support policies aimed at tackling the problems and pursuing the objectives which the two traditions shared and would be wary of those that emphasised their separateness.

The Government had a responsibility to take all the steps it could in the administration of the public services to improve community relations. The new unit would be steered by a group of senior officials from the six Northern Ireland government departments under the chairmanship of Dr Brian Mawhinney, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, and would work closely with the many interested statutory and voluntary bodies.

Announcing a number of new initiatives aimed at improving cross-community contacts on 14 September, Dr Mawhinney said that while the very real differences in politics and religion in Northern Ireland could not be ignored, he believed that most people were united in their wish to 'live and let live' and had no wish to bomb or bully their neighbour. Much good community relations work was already being done and additional resources would now be used to focus on young people who would be the society of tomorrow. An extra £250,000 would be added to the existing community relations budget of £500,000 for initiatives directed at young people under 19 years of age, £200,000 of which would be used to set up a special fund to support projects designed to improve cross-community understanding. The rest would go to such voluntary organisations as the Corrymeela Community, the Community Relations in Schools Group and the Columbanus Community. Help would also be given to the Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace which, with the support of church education departments, were involved in promoting a peace education programme in schools.

Dr Mawhinney referred to the involvement of the youth service which he said had a vital role to play. It was time for those involved in youth work to adopt a higher profile in cross-community work. There would also be an increased programme of in-service training for teachers with a view to promoting cross-community activities at school level. Talks would be held with colleges of education on placing more emphasis on education for mutual understanding in initial teacher training courses and increased support for activities which fostered good community relations would be given by the schools inspectorate. The completion of curriculum guidelines for schools would be hastened.

Equality of Opportunity in Employment

A new guide containing practical advice to employers and others on measures to promote equality of opportunity in employment was published on 15 September by the Northern Ireland Department of Economic Development under the title *Religious Equality of Opportunity in Employment. Guide to Effective Practice*. The guide is published under the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act 1976 which makes discrimination on the grounds of religious belief or political opinion illegal. The Act set up the Fair Employment Agency to work for the elimination of religious or political discrimination in employment, to investigate complaints and with powers to impose remedies.

The guide, which replaces one issued in 1978, emphasises that selection and promotion should be based solely on merit. The religious affiliation of both employees and job applicants should be monitored as a means of measuring the effects of procedures. When monitoring reveals under-representation of a group,

whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, affirmative action should be taken to redress the balance. Employers are encouraged to draw up, in conjunction with the trade unions, a joint declaration of protection to ensure freedom from intimidation or harassment in the work place and should prohibit the display of flags, emblems or graffiti which might cause offence. They should also co-operate closely with and, when necessary, seek the advice of the Fair Employment Agency. Recommendations are also made on the responsibilities of trade unions and employment agencies in promoting fair employment practices.

Publication of the guide is one of a series of measures being taken by the Government to ensure equality of opportunity in employment. Others include provision of increased finance for the Fair Employment Agency and proposals to introduce sanctions against companies which fail to offer equality of opportunity. In a message welcoming the guide's publication, the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, affirmed that the Government would take what further steps were required 'to work for the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of real equality of opportunity for all the people of Northern Ireland'.

Control of Firearms

Measures to tighten controls over firearms, particularly high-powered self-loading rifles, were announced by the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, on 22 September.

Speaking to the Police Superintendents' Association Conference in Torquay, Mr Hurd said that for some time the Government had been considering ways in which British legislation on the control of firearms could be tightened. Added impetus had been given to this work by the events at Hungerford.[1] There could be no justification for high-powered self-loading rifles of the type used in Hungerford to be held by private individuals and legislation would be brought forward to prohibit them, as was the case with fully automatic weapons. All burst-fire weapons and short-barrelled smooth bore guns would also be prohibited. In addition, other pump-action and self-loading shotguns with a greater fire capability than traditional single- and double-barrelled shotguns would be brought under the same control as now existed for rifles and pistols; exceptionally good grounds would have to exist for their purchase and continued possession.

Noting public concern about the ease with which military and other weapons could be converted from one classification to another, the Home Secretary said that in many cases such weapons could be restored to their original condition without the need for any professional skill. The Government would therefore make changes so that where a firearm was converted from a higher classification into a lower one, it would retain its original higher classification.

Mr Hurd also announced that a statutory safekeeping condition would be introduced into all shotgun certificates to ensure that such guns would be locked away when not in use, and that visitors to Great Britain would no longer be able to purchase and possess shotguns without a certificate. In addition, the maximum penalty for possessing a shotgun without a certificate would be raised in line with the similar offence relating to firearms.

Concluding, Mr Hurd said that there would be a firearms amnesty in 1988 to give an opportunity for illegally held weapons to be taken out of circulation.

Commenting on Mr Hurd's announcement, the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, said that the proposed measures would also extend to Scotland, as would the proposed amnesty. Although it would never be possible to guarantee that crimes with weapons would not recur, the measures would 'go a long way to tighten the law on possession of firearms, without interfering unduly with those who have legitimate reasons to own them'.

Current Legislation

Under the Firearms Act 1968 a certificate has to be acquired from the police if a person wishes to get, possess or use any firearm.

Continuous fire weapons such as machine guns are generally prohibited, as are weapons which discharge gas or any harmful substance. They cannot be possessed without written authority from the Home Office or the Scottish Home and Health Department, in addition to having a firearms certificate.

A firearms certificate must normally be obtained before anyone can possess, purchase or acquire a rifle, a pistol, a revolver, a specially dangerous air weapon, or a shotgun with a barrel less than 24 inches (61 cm) long; the police will not issue such a certificate unless they are satisfied that an individual has a good reason for having it, that public safety is not endangered and that the individual is fit to be entrusted with a firearm. The police may impose conditions, and they can also revoke a certificate. Such weapons cannot be sold, lent or given to anyone who does not have a firearms certificate. The maximum penalty for breaking these regulations is three years imprisonment or a fine or both. In addition, most types of ammunition for these weapons cannot be possessed, purchased or acquired unless the person concerned has a firearms certificate.

A firearms certificate is not required if the weapon is an 'antique firearm', possessed as a curiosity or ornament; if the weapon is used for drill or target practice by a member of a rifle club or cadet corps approved by a Secretary of State; or if the person concerned is engaged in the business of a registered firearms dealer. There are a number of other exceptions.

Shotguns having a barrel not less than 24 inches in length are also subject to control, since a shotgun certificate must be obtained from the police. A certificate may be refused if the police consider that possession of the gun would endanger public safety or if such possession is forbidden by the Firearms Act 1968. A person obtaining a shotgun without holding a valid certificate is liable on conviction to a maximum of six months imprisonment or a £2,000 fine or both. A shotgun may not be sold, lent or given to anyone who does not have a shotgun certificate. Similar exemptions apply to shotgun certificates as to firearms certificates (see above). In addition, a shotgun certificate is

[1]On 19 August 16 people were killed in Hungerford, Berkshire, by a gunman using a high-powered self-loading rifle.

not required if the weapon is borrowed from the occupier of private premises (including land) and is used in his or her presence, or if the person concerned is visiting Great Britain from abroad for a total of not more than 30 days in any 12 months. There is no restriction on the possession, purchase or acquisition of shotgun ammunition by persons over 17 years of age.

If a person is over 17 years of age, he or she can buy or hire most types of airgun or air pistol and the ammunition for them. Certain types of air weapon declared specially dangerous by the Secretary of State may not be obtained without a firearms certificate.

Certain imitation (replica) firearms are controlled by the Firearms Act 1982 (see p 264, 1982).

Shorter Notes

BRITISH CITIZENSHIP

The right to register as a British citizen which was preserved for five years after the British Nationality Act 1981 came into force on 1 January 1983 comes to an end at the end of the year. Those entitled to apply for registration are Commonwealth citizens and citizens of the Irish Republic who have lived in the United Kingdom since before 1973, women who have been married to a British citizen since before 1983 and Commonwealth citizens who have lived in the United Kingdom for five years and have the right of abode. The Home Office is conducting an advertising campaign to remind people that applications must be received by 31 December and information leaflets are available in English and six Asian languages. Those who decide not to apply for British citizenship at present may do so in future through naturalisation, but this is granted at the Home Secretary's discretion provided certain criteria regarding character, ability to speak the language and residence are met. There is no obligation to register and those Commonwealth and Irish citizens who do not do so will continue to have the same civic rights and responsibilities as they have now; they will continue to have the right to vote and their eligibility for housing and social security benefits will remain the same.

Sources: Home Office press notice, 9.9.87, and COI reference paper *The British Nationality Act 1981*, No 141/83.

LENIENT SENTENCES

Government plans to give the Court of Appeal in England and Wales the power to increase sentences referred to it by the Attorney-General for being too lenient were announced by the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, on 7 October.

This new provision, to be included in the Criminal Justice Bill, would cover the most serious offences, including cases where the Attorney-General considered that the judge had erred in law and had subsequently given a lenient sentence. The Court of Appeal would, however, have to give permission for the referral and there would be a time limit of 28 days after the original sentence had been passed within which an application for permission to refer would have to be made.

Under the proposals any referred sentence could be quashed by the Court of Appeal and replaced with a sentence the Court felt appropriate as long as the original court had power to impose such a sentence when dealing with the offender. The latter would be entitled to legal representation and legal aid.

Cases referred to the Court of Appeal would be able to be referred to the House of Lords, either by the Attorney-General or by the offender, on a point of law.

Initially the procedure would be confined purely to indictable offences tried in the Crown Court with a jury. There would, however, be a power for the Home Secretary to extend the procedure to other classes of offence which are triable either in the Crown Court or in a magistrates' court.

Source: Home Office press notice, 7.10.87.

OFFENSIVE WEAPONS

New measures to strengthen the law on the carrying of knives and other offensive weapons were announced by the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, on 7 October.

The proposed changes to the law, to be incorporated in the Criminal Justice Bill, would make it an offence for a person to have in a public place a bladed or sharply pointed instrument, and a person found carrying such an article would have to prove that he or she had good reason for doing so. It would be for the police and the courts to decide what would constitute good reason in individual cases. The new law would, however, provide some direction on what might be regarded as acceptable and there would be a general safeguard for tradesmen and people who carry knives as part of a national or religious costume. People carrying ordinary penknives would not be affected. Under the current law it is an offence to possess an offensive weapon in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, but the police have to show that the carrier of a knife intends to use it to cause injury.

The Government also intends to take powers in the Criminal Justice Bill to make it an offence to manufacture, sell, give or import specified weapons for which there is no legitimate use. Although consideration is still being given to what these items should be, they are likely to include knuckledusters, belt buckle knives and some 'martial arts' weapons. Under current legislation the only control on the sales of offensive weapons, other than firearms (see p 312) or crossbows, applies to flick knives and gravity knives, which cannot be manufactured, sold or imported.

Source: Home Office press notice, 7.10.87.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

British Foreign Policy

The need to end the Iran-Iraq war and to preserve freedom of navigation in the Gulf was stressed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly on 23 September. Sir Geoffrey also outlined British views on the Arab-Israeli dispute, Southern Africa, East-West relations and arms control, and the world's food problem.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Sir Geoffrey said that the senseless destruction and loss of life arising from the seven year-old war between Iran and Iraq had been extended into the international waters of the Gulf. On 21 September a British vessel had been attacked with loss of innocent life, 'a disgraceful and unprovoked act of aggression against an unarmed vessel'.[1] No state, emphasised Sir Geoffrey, could dictate who could use Gulf waters since they were an international thoroughfare. For many months freedom of navigation had been threatened by indiscriminate attacks on unarmed vessels, by harassment of merchant shipping and by the laying of random mines. The United States response to recent mine laying by Iran[2] had been fully justified and needed to be supported by all those wishing to bring the conflict to an end. The stability of the whole region was menaced by an escalating threat to peace and the challenge to the United Nations could not be more direct.

The Security Council had a particular responsibility to act and this had been unanimously accepted by the Council (see pp 253-5). This unanimity was built on 'the collective determination' of the five permanent members, each of which had resisted the temptation to put its own national interests before the cause of peace. They had to continue to do so because there was an overriding need to work together as the 'motor of action' by the whole Security Council.

The Council's legally binding resolution demanding a cease-fire by Iran and Iraq had paid due attention to the legitimate concerns and grievances of both countries and had provided that, in the absence of compliance, the measures necessary for enforcement would be put into place. The Council's determination to ensure compliance, Sir Geoffrey emphasised, had to remain firm; it now had to decide whether it should move to an arms embargo.

[1]On 21 September the British-registered oil tanker, *The Gentle Breeze*, was attacked by Iranian rocket-propelled grenades which set fire to the tanker's starboard side and killed a member of the crew. The incident took place as the ship sailed up the Gulf to Kuwait.

[2]On 22 September a United States warship fired on and captured an Iranian ship discovered laying mines in the Gulf.

Iran had shown that it did not intend to comply with the resolution; the unprovoked attacks with missiles and mines (see above) had shown its true intentions. So, too, had President Khamenei when, during his address to the General Assembly, he described the Security Council as a paper factory for issuing worthless and ineffective orders. Moreover, he had stated that the only option for Iran was to use violence. Britain therefore thought it essential to start work on the further measures foreseen in Resolution 598. Action was needed to show that the Council was neither worthless nor ineffective and that it would uphold its authority. Since the first step required was an arms embargo to prevent the flow of arms to those wishing to ignore the United Nations and prolong the conflict, Britain had decided to close down the operations of the Iranian military procurement office in London.

Arab-Israeli Dispute

Although the Gulf conflict was the most imminent danger to world peace, it was not the only one. The Arab-Israeli dispute had dragged on for decades and two generations of Arabs and Israelis had lived out their lives under the shadow of war and insecurity. The basis for a settlement, however, was plain to see, namely Israel's right to a secure existence and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. Britain, along with virtually the whole world, accepted the idea of an international conference which would provide a framework for negotiation and not impose solutions or veto agreements between the parties (see pp 90-1).

Lebanon

On Lebanon, Sir Geoffrey said that the United Nations interim force needed the full support of member states and that the Lebanese people had to be left to tackle their problems free from outside interference. All foreign forces had to withdraw and Lebanon's international borders be respected (see p 54).

Referring to the taking of hostages, Sir Geoffrey stressed that Britain would never submit to blackmail and would never do deals with terrorists. This was the only policy which made sense, since every ransom paid and every deal concluded made another terrorist act worthwhile.

South Africa

Sir Geoffrey said that the problem of Southern Africa cried out for a united response from the international community. South Africa, although not the only example of racial intolerance, was 'unique in the institutionalised domination of other races by the white population'. Apartheid was morally repugnant, indefensible,

inhumane and suicidal for those who practised it; it also bred discontent, violence and revolution. There was seething discontent among the black population and the rulers of South Africa had to change course before it was too late. Although some of them had realised this, reforms so far had been too slow and too limited. 'We all share one common aim', Sir Geoffrey emphasised, 'the elimination of apartheid as quickly as possible.'

Sir Geoffrey stressed that South Africa could not be encouraged to move in the right direction through further measures which would serve only to unite the whites against the world, slow the progress of change and prolong apartheid. However, moral pressure on South Africa had to be maintained since its rulers could not be allowed to put their faith in the status quo. They had to be convinced that peace and security could only be achieved through genuine dialogue with the leaders of the other races and by comprehensive reform.

Apartheid not only afflicted those who lived in South Africa but also destabilised South Africa's neighbours. Britain was taking a lead in helping them by providing practical assistance in training and equipping their military forces to ensure the security of their transport links and by giving extensive aid to develop alternative transport systems and to pay for training and equipment. Over the past five years British aid to states belonging to the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (see p 91-2) had totalled more than $1,000 million.[1]

The Soviet Union and Afghanistan

The Soviet Union of today, Sir Geoffrey said, was not the Soviet Union which invaded Afghanistan in 1979. The Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, had made a remarkable effort to reform and restructure his country. Britain had applauded this and wished him well, since a more prosperous and efficient Soviet Union would be easier for the world to live with and for its citizens to live in. Mr Gorbachev, however, needed a stable international environment to carry out his reform programme and Britain detected in him a genuine wish to find a way to end the war in Afghanistan and bring Soviet soldiers home. This would not be an easy task and the Soviet leaders needed to make the necessary leap of imagination if openness and reforms were to have the effect they should have on Soviet foreign and domestic policies. Although the Soviet Union could reasonably seek to avoid instability or threats to its security on its borders, it had to accept that Afghanistan would only be stable when a government emerged that truly commanded the trust and confidence of the Afghan people. During eight years of Soviet occupation tens of thousands had been killed and 5 million refugees driven to leave their country. The Soviet Union had to withdraw its troops and let the Afghan people decide their own future (see pp 18-21).

Arms Control

Turning to arms control, Sir Geoffrey said that the agreement announced by the United States and the Soviet Union on intermediate range nuclear forces (INF)[1] had lit a beacon of hope for all those who saw the key to a less troubled world in greater co-operation and mutual trust between the superpowers. The INF agreement would, for the first time ever, bite into the nuclear arsenals of both sides and provide for stringent verification, and this would significantly increase the mutual trust and confidence without which major progress in East-West relations was unattainable. The next priorities were a 50 per cent cut in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the superpowers, a world-wide ban on chemical weapons and the removal of imbalances in conventional weapons from the Atlantic to the Urals (see pp 192-4). Although these were complex and difficult and would test to the utmost the skill, patience and determination of both sides' negotiators, an INF agreement would begin to erode the thick ice-cap of mistrust that had accumulated over the years.

[1]For further information see the COI publication *British Aid to Southern Africa*.

Debt Relief for Africa

Britain's proposals for relieving the burden of debt on the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa were endorsed by the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting in Barbados in September.

Speaking to the conference on 24 September, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, said that under the proposals creditor nations would convert aid loans into outright grants, would allow longer repayment and grace periods in rescheduling loans and would reduce interest rates charged on debts to well below market levels. These proposals would, however, apply only to the poorest most heavily indebted countries where they were implementing satisfactory economic policies in line with adjustment programmes approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the World Bank and if the countries concerned were clearly suffering from real and prolonged debt distress as indicated by the disproportionate size of their debt obligations in relation to their export earnings.

Britain had largely completed the process of converting former aid loans into grants by writing off nearly £1,000 million of aid loans. A number of other countries had also made good progress on this front and Britain welcomed Canada's recent decision to follow suit. In addition creditor countries in the Paris Club had agreed longer repayment and grace periods for rescheduled loans to five countries. Although the interest rate concession was essential if real progress was to be made, this had proved the most difficult for other creditors to accept. 'But it is of critical importance if we are to make any real progress in easing the debt

[1]On 18 September the United States and Soviet foreign ministers, meeting in Washington, issued a joint statement saying that they had reached agreement in principle to conclude a treaty on the removal of INF and had issued instructions to their delegations in Geneva to work intensively to resolve remaining technical issues. They also agreed that a similarly intensive effort should be made to achieve a treaty providing for a 50 per cent reduction in strategic offensive nuclear arms and that negotiations on the question of banning all nuclear tests should begin before the end of 1987.

burden on the poorest countries . . . For the heart of the problem . . . is that, without some relief, they cannot even meet their interest payments. So these are added to their debt, and the burden mounts exponentially.'

Mr Lawson said that the IMF had advanced complementary proposals concerned with the debt problems of the poorest countries. The IMF had proposed a tripling of the resources of its Structural Adjustment Facility to provide more concessionary lending in support of economic reform programmes. Provided all other creditor countries were prepared to play their part, Britain would contribute its share of the finance required to enable the IMF to increase its lending at concessional interest rates. It had in mind a contribution of up to $30 million a year to support concessional lending of up to $500 million.

The British initiative on debt was supported by the Commonwealth finance ministers who commended it to creditor countries but the IMF's proposal to increase its Structural Adjustment Facility was not approved at the annual joint meeting of the IMF and the World Bank which took place in September (see p 318).

Fiji

Following a military coup in Fiji in September and the subsequent resignation of the Governor-General on 15 October, Britain has welcomed the decision of Commonwealth heads of Government to tender their good offices to help Fiji resolve its constitutional problems on the basis of Commonwealth principles.

On 25 September, the caretaker government in Fiji (see p 317), then an independent state within the Commonwealth, was overturned by a military coup led by the commander of the armed forces, Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka. A number of statements by Colonel Rabuka were issued subsequently, including the announcement on 29 September that the office of Governor-General (who represented the Queen as the head of State) no longer existed; his declaration on 1 October that the 1970 Fiji constitution had been revoked; and the appointment of himself as head of State. In a radio broadcast on 7 October, Colonel Rabuka proclaimed Fiji a republic. On 15 October, the Governor-General, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, resigned.

Buckingham Palace Statements

On 29 September, Buckingham Palace issued a statement which said that the Queen continued to regard the Governor-General as 'her representative and the sole legitimate source of executive authority in Fiji'. Referring to the agreement reached between the two political parties (see p 317), the statement said that Her Majesty regretted that 'this process of peaceful change in restoring Fiji to constitutional normality [had] been overtaken by illegal action and the use of force'. Anyone who sought to remove the Governor-General from office 'would, in effect, be repudiating his allegiance and loyalty to the Queen'. Her Majesty hoped that the process of restoring Fiji to constitutional normality could be resumed, and recognised that many Fijians held firm their allegiance to the Crown and to the Governor-General as its personal representative. She 'would be deeply saddened if those bonds of mutual loyalty and affection, which have so long held the Fijian people and the British Monarchy together, were to be severed'.

After the Governor-General's resignation, a statement issued by the Queen's press secretary on 15 October expressed Her Majesty's sadness 'that the ending of Fijian allegiance to the Crown should have been brought about without the people of Fiji being given an opportunity to express their opinion on the proposal'.

Fiji's Position in the Commonwealth

In a statement issued in London on 30 September, the Commonwealth Secretariat pointed out that the established convention was that if a member country wished to become a republic and to continue to be a member of the Commonwealth, it had to make its intentions formally known to the Commonwealth Secretary-General who would then consult all the other Commonwealth countries. The statement went on: 'The Commonwealth's unanimous concurrence is required for continued membership; such concurrence is neither automatic nor can it be assumed.'

In a statement issued on 16 October in Vancouver, Commonwealth heads of Government acknowledged that Fiji's Commonwealth membership had lapsed with the emergence of the republic. They hoped that the problem would be resolved by the people of Fiji on a basis consistent with the principles that had guided the Commonwealth and agreed that the Commonwealth, if requested, would be ready to tender its good offices towards such a resolution, and, if the circumstances warranted it, to consider the question of Fiji's membership of the Commonwealth.

British Government View

Speaking at a press conference on 17 October in Vancouver at the conclusion of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, expressed regret at the events in Fiji. Most Commonwealth members, she said, had wanted to keep open the option of Commonwealth membership for Fiji, and this in effect had been agreed by the heads of Government. This was a good decision and Britain had played a leading part in securing it since it did not wish to turn its back on a country in need. Britain hoped that over the coming months an acceptable solution would be found that would preserve Fiji's tradition for democracy and enable it to make a successful application for Commonwealth membership.

Background

Fiji was a colony of Britain for 96 years until 1970 when it became an independent state within the Commonwealth. Its 1970 constitution, which also has a statement of fundamental rights and freedoms, provides for a Governor-General, appointed by the Queen as the head of State; a Cabinet consisting of a Prime Minister, the Attorney-General and other ministers appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister; and a bicameral parliament which has a nominated Senate and an elected House of Representatives. Since independence Fijian parliaments have been dominated by the Alliance Party,

supported mainly by indigenous Fijians; however, the 1987 election was won by a multiracial but Indian-dominated coalition (the Fijian Labour Party and the National Federation Party) led by Dr Timoci Bavadra, returning 28 out of 52 seats in the island's House of Representatives.

On 14 May 1987, Colonel Rabuka staged a coup that overthrew the government of Dr Bavadra, which took office following the election in April. However, the coup collapsed because the Governor-General refused to swear in a council of ministers appointed by the Colonel, and instead took executive power himself as the head of a caretaker administration while asking Colonel Rabuka to chair a committee to revise the constitution. On 22 September the two main political parties in Fiji agreed to form a government with equal representation, pending new elections and constitutional changes that would take account of Fijian aspirations as well as safeguarding the aspirations of all the other communities.

Fiji's population at the 1983 census was nearly 678,000, 44·9 per cent of which were Fijians and 50·1 per cent ethnic Indians; the remainder of the population (5·1 per cent) include part-Europeans, Rotumans, Chinese and Europeans.

Shorter Note

SINO-BRITISH FRIENDSHIP SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

A group of students from the People's Republic of China has arrived in Britain to take up postgraduate places under the Sino-British Friendship Scholarship Scheme. The scheme, to be managed by the British Council, will finance up to 420 postgraduate awards annually at British universities and other higher education institutions over the next ten years. Awards will be made mainly for study and research in areas of priority under China's civil modernisation programme, especially science, technology, economics, social science and industrial training. Sir Yue-Kong Pao, a leading figure in the Hong Kong community, is providing £14 million towards the total cost of the scheme, the Chinese Government a further £14 million and the British Government £7 million (see pp 220-1, 1986).

Source: Overseas Development Administration press notice, 17.9.87.

Chancellor's Speech at International Monetary Fund Meeting

The British economy, which was now in its seventh successive year of growth at an annual rate of some 3 per cent, had adjusted smoothly to the sharp fall in the oil price in 1986, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, said in his speech at the joint annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington on 30 September. On the subject of exchange rates, he looked forward to a regime of managed floating in which any necessary changes would take place in an orderly manner.

The British Economy

The Chancellor pointed out that, since the sharp fall in the oil price in 1986 (see p 193, 1986), Britain's growth rate – far from slowing down, as had been expected – had increased. The growth rate of the major industrialised countries, however, had been below expectations. This constituted a paradox: the industrialised countries as a whole had benefited substantially from the decline in oil prices whereas Britain, as a major oil producer and exporter, had stood to lose significantly. In the event, the British economy had adjusted more smoothly than many people had thought possible. The latest forecast by the International Monetary Fund had estimated growth in 1987 at 3·4 per cent – the highest in any of the major industrialised countries. Productivity growth in manufacturing – currently around 6 per cent a year – had continued to exceed expectations, thus containing the increase in unit labour costs.

Britain's strong growth was not the result of a fiscal stimulus. The public sector borrowing requirement had been reduced to less than 1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP – see p 130) and tax rates had been brought down by lowering public expenditure as a proportion of GDP (see p 56). There had not been any relaxation of monetary policy either: interest rates had been held at levels necessary to maintain sound anti-inflationary conditions. 'It is the enterprise economy that has done the trick', Mr Lawson said. A result of the improvement in performance had been a significant drop in unemployment – by 400,000 over the previous 14 months.

Although inflation was a little higher than in 1986, when the impact of the fall in the oil price had been at its greatest, there had been no significant change in underlying inflationary pressure. Britain was now well into its seventh successive year of steady growth at around 3 per cent a year. There had been minor fluctuations during that period; after the slight spurt in 1987 the Chancellor expected a rate closer to 3 per cent in 1988.

Exchange Rates

He recalled that, following the collapse in the early 1970s of the system of fixed exchange rates, a regime of floating rates had become 'virtually inescapable'. However, hindsight had shown that the case in favour of free floating rates was much less compelling. The belief that markets would, through the operations of medium-term speculators, provide a stabilising influence had not been borne out. There had, in particular, been large swings in the value of the dollar, which had clearly not been a reflection of slow-moving economic fundamentals. These swings had damaged the growth in world trade. Businesses had had to divert resources to coping with currency fluctuations rather than improving company performance. Uncertainty about fluctuations inhibited risk-taking.

These fluctuations were largely the result of the nature of foreign exchange markets. Turnover had increased dramatically with only a small part related to commercial transactions. However, there was an absence of operators taking a long-term view and so able to provide a stabilising influence. As a result, once the value of the dollar started to move in one direction, it could continue to do so for years even if there were a consensus that the rate was out of line; this had happened in 1984 and early 1985. There was general agreement that the dollar was overvalued and that, in the long run, it was bound to fall in value; however, people continued to buy dollars in the – self-fulfilling – belief that, in the short run, the value would rise even higher. Capital movements had generated fluctuations in the value of the dollar which had themselves led to further capital movements. Changes in exchange rates had thus acquired a momentum of their own, which had not been reversed until the over- or undervaluation had become extreme.

Currency Agreements

Growing concern about this process had led to a meeting of representatives of the 'Group of Five' highly industrialised nations in New York in September 1985 (see pp 317-18, 1985). They had three concerns: that exchange rate fluctuations had proved damaging; that the value of the dollar was far too high; and that their monetary authorities should give the foreign exchange markets a clear lead. The agreement then reached had been a step towards a more managed system. It had played an important role in bringing about a continuing fall in the value of the dollar over the succeeding 15 months.

The broad objectives decided on had been achieved by the time of the Paris meeting of February 1987 (see pp 95-6). The yen and the Deutsche Mark had each appreciated by around 50 per cent against the dollar. The participants felt that the value of the dollar was by then broadly in line with economic fundamentals and that the interests of the world economy would best be served by a period of stability to allow the major economies to adjust to the exchange rate changes that had occurred. The Paris agreement had proved a success.

Managed Floating

The move to managed floating rates had been made possible by two fundamental changes: the sharp fall during the 1980s in rates of inflation in the major industrialised countries and the reduction in disparities; and the agreement between them on increased reliance on market mechanisms within the framework of a firm monetary and fiscal policy.

The regime had been workable because the participants had: worked with rather than against market movements; committed themselves publicly to appropriate and consistent domestic policies; given significant weight to exchange rates in the conduct of monetary policy; backed up their agreement with co-ordinated – and sometimes substantial – intervention; and operated within margins sufficient to allow the necessary tactical room for manoeuvre.

The Future

Mr Lawson expressed the belief that, with the experience gained, a more permanent regime of managed floating should be built. 'Our objectives should be clear: to maintain the maximum stability of key exchange rates and to manage any changes that may be necessary in an orderly way.'

This did not amount to a return to the fixed exchange rate regime. That had been undermined by its rigidity; its narrow margins of fluctuation; its need for a predictable and mechanical response from the monetary authorities, which made them an easy target for speculators; and the fact that the necessary realignments, because they were delayed for too long, were inevitably large.

The Chancellor pointed out the need, on the part of the countries that had participated in the currency agreements, for a continuing commitment to curbing inflation. It was also necessary to ensure that there was no persistent bias – inflationary or deflationary – for the group as a whole. This could be helped by three developments: the construction of performance indicators for the group – mainly financial but with special attention being given to commodity prices; the formulation of a framework for policy for the group either in terms of a path for the growth of GDP or for the average rate of inflation; and the adoption of a medium-term – rather than short-term – perspective in setting out objectives and gauging performance.

He expressed doubt as to whether much more could be gained by the continued development of performance indicators for individual countries. Instead, he felt it would be far more useful to monitor performance of the group of countries as a whole to ensure the maintenance of the correct non-inflationary stance of policy.

Current Account Imbalances

Mr Lawson said that he did not share the fears of some that the February 1987 agreement would be undermined by the persistence of current account imbalances between the major countries. Trade volumes were adjusting to exchange rate changes; imbalances remained large only because, following a devaluation, the current account deteriorated before it improved. In any case, there was no law dictating that the current accounts of the major economies should always be in balance. Investment opportunities and savings propensities differed between countries; this led to international capital flows, which were the counterpart to current account imbalances.

The present combination of surpluses and deficits had emerged over several years, during which the growth of domestic demand in the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan had been consistently below the growth of output; the reverse had held for the United States. The process of unwinding the imbalances called for a reversal of the differences between domestic demand and output. This would take time to complete but the process had begun. 'It would be a serious mistake to seek a short cut by a further dollar depreciation', the Chancellor warned. While it had been undoubtedly necessary to rectify the huge misalignment of the dollar in 1985, there was no justification for going to the opposite extreme of depressing its value to an artificially low level. The benefits to the current account of the United States would be small compared with the damage to its level of inflation and the dislocation to the world economy.

Building Consultancy Overseas

British firms of architects, consulting engineers and surveyors continued to work on projects all around the world in 1986, although there was a downturn in the international construction market.

The downturn in international construction was caused by the growth of international debt which has inhibited major new investments, lower revenues among oil-producing countries, and, in some cases, political instability.

Work in hand by British consulting engineers was valued at £43,000 million at the end of 1986, for example, compared with work valued at £51,000 million at the end of the previous year. (The downturn was also reflected in the overseas results for British building and civil engineering contractors – see pp 298-9.)

The earnings of consulting engineers overseas amounted to £508 million. Surveyors earned £110 million, a rise of £11 million on the 1985 figure.

The descriptions of overseas consultancy work that follow are based upon articles published in the 11 September and 18 September issues of *British Business*.

Architects

The examples below are of work undertaken by members of the Royal Institute of British Architects. The

Institute has a clients' advisory service which assists overseas clients in finding architects with the skills and resources to meet their requirements.

Among Abbey Hanson Rowe Partnership projects the prestigious new headquarters building in the centre of the business area of Manama for the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait is currently in the final stages of completion. Carried out in association with a local firm, Mohamed Salahuddin, the 13-storey development includes basement parking, a three-storey public banking hall, administrative offices and a computer centre. Continuing appointments in Bahrain include a new transmission depot for the Ministry of Works, Power and Water.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia recently opened the new Al Amal 300-bed hospital designed by the practice in Dammam. Also in Saudi Arabia, the first of a series of three psychiatric hospitals has reached completion. Each of these is being designed, built and equipped in a period of only 20 months using a fast-track prefabricated wall frame system.

In Nicosia, the partnership is acting as consultant to the Bank of Cyprus for its new headquarters building.

Brewer Smith & Brewer Gulf was appointed as architect for the New Emirates Gulf Club in Dubai, now under construction on an area of desert which has been transformed into an oasis by an integrated system of irrigation using ornamental lakes and desalinated water. The architectural concept reflects both the heritage of the region and the commitment to modern design which Dubai encourages.

John Clark Associates were commissioned to design a 200 bedroom hotel in Pangkor Bay, Malaysia. Completed in 1986, the project includes a hotel centre with bars, entertainment and conference facilities, recreational areas with swimming pools, a golf course and artificial lakes. The design is along the lines of an ethnic village and is sympathetic to its natural surroundings.

In Lagos, Nigeria, construction has started on a textile spinning mill and a shrimp-processing plant, designed by James Cubitt and Partners. The practice is also supervising the construction of the headquarters building for an education co-operation society, a maternity hospital, a chain of fast food outlets and the conversion of office space into the visa section for the British High Commission. Elsewhere in Nigeria, current commissions include a food-processing factory, a chicken farm, a caustic soda plant and a fruit juice factory.

Master plans for a College of Further Education in Brisbane, Australia, and for Moi University in Kenya have been completed. The Central (Prince Andrew) School on St Helena in the south Atlantic is under construction for completion at the end of 1988 and the new island hospital on Anguilla in the West Indies is about to go out to tender.

Culpin Planning is providing technical assistance to the Governments of Indonesia and Jordan. One of the partners is team leader/senior land advisor of a major initiative in urban management in which the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlement and the World Bank are involved. The firm is providing advisors to the integrated urban infrastructure development programme in Indonesia and is completing work on the national housing strategy in Jordan, funded by the United States aid programme.

Culpin Planning was awarded an Aga Khan award for architecture 1986, for the 'outstanding contribution to architecture for Muslims' represented by its Ismailia development projects in Egypt.

In Mogadishu, Somalia, Farmer and Dark have completed a mixed development of shops, offices and apartments on an island site in the commercial area of the city.

Designed by Ian Fraser, John Roberts and Partners to be the focus and inspiration of Saudi Arabia's youth welfare programme, the spectacular King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh has fully automatic irrigation to a grass pitch, computerised timing system and twin electronic full-colour multilingual scoreboards.

The principal uses of the stadium will be international track and field athletics and football. It has 67,000 spectator seats accommodated within an elliptical lower tier and a grandstand gallery. The roof exploits the most advanced 'state of the art' engineering technology and is claimed to be the largest free-span cable-tensioned fibre glass structure of its kind.

The Halpern Partnership, in association with Emery Roth & Sons of New York, is currently engaged in the conceptual design and development of the China World Trade Center in Beijing. Scheduled for completion in 1988, the centre will have total accommodation of 511,000 sq m (5·5 million sq ft) and comprises a 93,000 sq m (1 million sq ft) high-rise office block, 800-room international hotel and 300-room business class hotel. There are also 500 residential units in twin 30-storey towers, together with underground parking for 1,800 cars and 1,000 bicycles.

The whole is designed in keeping with traditional Chinese architecture but incorporates modern heating, air-conditioning, lighting and communications systems.

Work in Oman by JSA Project Management Ltd includes a proposed series of seven youth centres, the first two of which are at contract stage. Each centre includes sports facilities, athletes' accommodation, a mosque, and library and lecture rooms. Barracks for the Ministry of Defence are nearing completion as well as around 40 agricultural centres spread across the Sultanate.

Other projects include a medical building, public health compounds, a veterinary building, a factory and a major commercial building.

The Hong Kong office of Sidney Kaye, Firmin Partnership has won a contract to design the Sara Hua Qiao international hotel in Beijing, China. The hotel is close to the Imperial Palace and therefore strict design criteria were imposed on the development. A joint venture between a mainland Chinese corporation and a Hong Kong developer, the project will incorporate 411 double bedrooms plus 20 large suites.

Sidney Kaye, Firmin Partnership are also involved in a new hotel project for a Turkish developer in Istanbul.

For Llewelyn-Davies Weeks commissions in the field of health care include a new 30-storey building for the Queen Mary Hospital and a 500-bed extension to the Yan Chai Hospital in Hong Kong, the new 600-bed Rangoon General Hospital in Burma and the £20 million 120-bed Onassis Cardiac Surgery Centre close to the centre of Athens. Llewelyn-Davies Weeks Health Consultancy are currently engaged in projects in Egypt, Abu Dhabi and Cyprus.

Industrial projects in Hong Kong include a semi-

conductor factory, extensions to the air cargo handling terminal at Kai Tak Airport and a major extension to an aircraft tyre retreading factory.

Llewelyn-Davies Planning are providing technical assistance to the Urban Development Department in Jordan, and are carrying out an airport development study and urban design studies in China, as well as reviewing the training requirements of the Indian Government's executive housing agency, in collaboration with Oxford Polytechnic.

Morrison Design Ltd has prepared a number of feasibility designs for hotel and leisure complexes on both the southern and western coasts of Turkey and in northern Cyprus. In Istanbul the company has been commissioned to design the full refurbishment and extension of a building which previously housed part of the Istanbul Technical University and is now to be a hotel. The building has great historic and architectural significance and restoration of its fabric and preservation of its character are primary conditions in the development of the design.

Omrania's most recently completed building is a solar energy laboratory in the King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology 50 km (30 miles) outside Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. The 1,220 sq m (13,000 sq ft) laboratory is an important addition to an experimental programme, designed to develop the science of solar energy in the kingdom, which is at present supplying energy to three local villages.

In the Middle East the Percy Thomas Partnership has started the construction of British embassies in Jordan and Kuwait, while a referred patient hospital is under construction in Cairo. Various projects have been designed in Turkey, including hotels and a Wonderland Park.

In the Far East the working drawings have been completed for the first stage of the City Polytechnic of Hong Kong and the company has completed the preliminary design of the second phase. It has also submitted a competition entry for the new Technical University of Hong Kong. In Malaysia it has developed designs for rural hospitals, based on the 'nucleus' concept devised by Britain's Department of Health and Social Security.

For the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club RMJM is now working on the grandstand redevelopment at the Island Racecourse, a laboratory for dope-testing horses and a recreation centre for club members.

The company has also been appointed for the master planning and executive work for the development of a private golf and country club in Hong Kong. In Indonesia the company is providing consultancy services for the World Bank funded development of the University of Andalas, west Sumatra.

In the Middle East the company has recently completed a large military airbase in the Gulf area and the redevelopment of the National Museum of Archaeology in Tripoli, Libya, for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. Current commissions include a marine science and resources centre in Aden, Democratic Republic of Yemen, and the Technical Studies Institute at Dhahran in Saudi Arabia.

In Bahrain, YRM International was responsible for the design of staff and student housing of the Arabian Gulf University. Work is nearing completion and the university is expected to open for the 1987-88 academic year.

The company is currently the architect and interior design consultant to Nishimatsu Construction's design-and-build contract for City Hall Station and the nearby operations control centre in Singapore.

Earlier this year the practice was appointed by Polly Peck International as architect for a five-star hotel at Antalya in southern Turkey, due for completion in the spring of 1989.

Consulting Engineers

Africa, the Middle East, the Far East, and Australia/New Zealand (in that order) were the sources of the largest number of new projects reported by members of the Association of Consulting Engineers (ACE) in 1986.

Water and Waste

For many countries, investment in water projects has top priority, with a view to providing clean water for drinking and arranging for the safe disposal of wastewater.

In Egypt, for example, British consulting engineers are working on the Greater Cairo wastewater project, designed to cope with a population of 14 million and costing an estimated £1,000 million. First stage works include 40 km (25 miles) of tunnel sewers, three treatment works, and numerous pumping stations.

British firms are working elsewhere in Egypt to rehabilitate groundwater resources, treatment works and distribution systems to improve supplies to an area currently populated by 2·6 million people. The scheme will also provide 675 km (420 miles) of pipeline and minor mains, and over 400,000 new house connections.

A newly completed Iraqi project with an estimated capital value of £600 million has involved British consulting engineers in designing and supervising a scheme serving the west bank area of Baghdad. The Karkh project includes river intake, treatment works, 40 km (25 miles) of large-diameter transmission pipeline, reservoirs, pumping stations and 190 km (120 miles) of primary distribution pipelines. Work is now under way on an extension of the treatment works and a cross-river link to the city's east bank.

Last year, two desalination schemes were completed in Oman and two in the United Arab Emirates, and others are going ahead in Libya, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Further examples of water schemes in the Middle East and Africa for which ACE members are responsible include extensions to supply facilities in Kaduna, Nigeria, more than quadrupling capacity; two large distribution projects in Kuwait with a total estimated capital value of £400 million; and three dams in Algeria.

In Asia, there are several major water projects in India and Pakistan, including two supply schemes in Bombay and one in Hyderabad, while in Sri Lanka, British engineering consultants are assisting with project management, in-house design and a variety of rehabilitation projects by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board.

The Chittagong water supply project in Bangladesh is involving British engineers in providing design and supervision services for a scheme which will treble supplies, and in Brunei projects include various water treatment plants, pumping stations, pipelines, storage facilities, a river barrage and a dam.

Power Generation

There are major hydroelectric schemes in progress in Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho and Sri Lanka. The Indonesian Micra scheme, for example, entails the construction of a 95 m (310 ft) high dam, a 180 MW surface power station, and twin diversion tunnels.

Thermal station projects are being undertaken in many parts of the world, including Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and several countries in Africa and the Middle East.

In April 1986 the initial 350 MW unit was commissioned at the 700 MW Shajiao B plant, the first coal-fired power station in China's Guangdong Province. There was a strong British involvement in the design and project management team, including two British consulting engineering practices and a contractor who together provided engineering services for the project which was completed in a record time of 22 months. A few weeks earlier the first phase of the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz power station (formerly known as Port Klang) was officially opened in Malaysia. The project is designed for an ultimate capacity of 2,400-3,000 MW and is to be implemented in four phases; the initial phase, which started in 1979, is the first dual-fired power station in the country. It has been engineered by a British-based firm of consulting engineers in conjunction with the projects division of the National Electricity Board of the States of Malaya.

The same British consulting engineering practice was recently commissioned by Britain's Overseas Development Administration for a major power plant efficiency programme involving seven thermal power plants in Pakistan. It encompasses surveys and appraisals of steam and gas turbine generating units installed between 1960 and 1981.

Transmission projects recently completed or currently in hand by British engineers include a 325 km (200-mile) 400 kV double-circuit overhead transmission line in Jordan, 330 kV transmission line reinforcement in Nigeria, and supervision of the construction of 700 km (435 miles) of overhead lines and underground cables (together with more than 70 new, extended or modified substations) in Qatar.

At the beginning of this year, British consulting engineers were engaged on overseas work related to nuclear power stations in Brazil, Canada, China and Romania.

Mass Transit

British engineers made a major contribution to the creation of the Hong Kong mass transit railway; detailed design began in 1972 and the basic system, four interconnected lines, was completed last year. Further engineering consultancy work continues on this and other railway projects in Hong Kong.

Several British practices joined forces to provide a general consultancy service for the first stage of the Baghdad metro, which has an estimated total capital cost of £4,000 million.

An extensive mass transit system is well under way in Singapore and various British engineering consultants are involved. Other countries in which British practices are working on railway schemes include Belgium (Brussels metro), Taiwan (mass rapid transit system) and the United States (Buffalo light rail transit).

In Greece, a joint venture of British consulting engineers and Greek consultants has been appointed to plan proposed extensions to the Athens metro, while the Karachi Development Authority recently appointed consultants, including a leading British engineering practice, to undertake a comprehensive public transport study of the city to determine the feasibility of different mass transit systems.

Roads, Bridges and Tunnels

Countries in which British consulting engineers are working on highway, bridge or tunnel projects range from Antigua and Barbuda (road rehabilitation and maintenance) to Zimbabwe (a variety of road and bridge construction schemes). Many of the major highway projects are in the Middle East – notably motorways and expressways in Kuwait, and extensive town and rural road and bridge works in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Projects in Hong Kong include a second road and rail tunnel crossing of the harbour.

Schemes in Malaysia include supervision of construction of 360 km (225 miles) of expressway, and in Nigeria programmes include two federal trunk roads plus various other trunk, town and rural roads. Elsewhere in west Africa, a major consultancy contract involving maintenance and reconstruction of 300 km (188 miles) of roads is being undertaken in Cameroon, while in Uganda another practice is planning the upgrading of 1,200 km (745 miles) of roads.

In China, several projects are being undertaken, the largest being the design of the 150 km (95-mile) Beijing-Tanggu expressway.

Turkey is the scene of a number of notable projects, including work on the second Bosporus bridge and its approach roads, design of the Camlica-Gebze motorway and other motorway/expressway designs for Istanbul.

However, the world's biggest planned transportation project, upon which British consulting engineers are working, is very close to home – the Channel Tunnel (see p 280). The British section now being designed extends for about 25 km (15 miles) from the English coast towards France and involves 80 km (50 miles) of tunnels consisting mainly of the two main rail tunnels and a smaller service tunnel.

Air Transport

Airport schemes include a new cargo terminal and upgrading of the general infrastructure of Bahrain international airport; radio navigational aids, aeronautical telecommunications and meteorological equipment, airfield lighting, electricity supplies and building services for Iraq's new Erbil airport; supervision of construction of the Queen Alia international airport in Jordan; extensive work at Tripoli international airport in Libya (including a new passenger terminal); specialist consultancy for aeronautical ground lighting and telecommunications systems, flight information display, baggage handling systems and other developments at Kuching airport, Sarawak; and extensive work at Al Ain international airport in the United Arab Emirates.

A British firm of consulting engineers, supported by other British specialist organisations, was recently awarded the master planning contract for Harare airport in Zimbabwe.

Docks and Harbours

Among dock and harbour schemes upon which British engineering consultants are engaged are the design and construction supervision of four deepwater berths, container terminal and port infrastructure at Aden. The same practice is engaged on the design and construction supervision of a programme for the development of five village fisheries co-operatives in the Yemen People's Democratic Republic.

In Saudi Arabia, British consulting engineers are responsible for design and site supervision of five new berths – part of the Yanbu Port expansion – plus an extensive range of work with a total estimated capital value of about £130 million in the Port of Dammam, part of which was completed last year. Elsewhere in the Middle East and north Africa, schemes include ten berths at Um Qasr and combined port facilities at Khor Al-Subair in Iraq; a recently completed naval base in Kuwait; and development of a port at Zware in Libya.

Elsewhere in the world there are various projects for the Barbados Port Authority, modernisation and development of the Port of Rangoon, harbour development in China, and extension of container terminal facilities in Hong Kong. Consulting engineers are also engaged on the development of the Surabaya Port container terminal in Indonesia and in providing technical consultancy for a deep-water fuel berth in Iceland.

Industrial and Commercial

Industrial projects under way or recently completed include steelworks and mill projects in Algeria, Morocco, Mexico and Portugal; an aluminium extrusion plant in Oman; a washing machine factory in China; liquid petroleum gas projects in Thailand; breweries in Nigeria and the Irish Republic; a salt refinery in Qatar; a minting and printing works for the Central Bank of Iraq; and a diesel engine factory in Tunisia.

Major commercial and public schemes include the Gulf University in Bahrain, two universities in Iraq, university buildings in Nigeria and Zimbabwe, primary schools in Barbados; hotels in many countries, including a game lodge in Kenya; the 55-storey Jing Guang commercial centre in China and a variety of major office schemes in Hong Kong.

In addition, engineering practices are working on hospitals, housing developments, office and shopping schemes, and sports and recreation facilities in various countries. These range from a sports stadium in West Berlin and an ice rink in Abu Dhabi to a commercial complex in Kuala Lumpur and three 24-storey buildings above stations on the Hong Kong mass transit line.

Food and Agriculture

Schemes designed to improve the processing, handling and storage of food are of great importance everywhere.

One British firm has been appointed to work on equipment design; evaluation, supervision and commissioning of handling equipment; and storage technology for 52 grain stores of from 5,000 to 20,000 tonnes capacity in Turkey.

Other examples of large-scale grain storage programmes are to be found in Saudi Arabia where British engineers are engaged on two 200,000 tonne silo installations, as well as an extension to the port silos at Jedda, and a 60,000 tonne silo in the Port of Aden.

Another agro-industry scheme in Saudi Arabia is for an animal pre-mix concentrates and soluble powder factory in Riyadh, while in Sudan a £12 million poultry production unit has been completed at Khartoum and a roller ginning factory with associated seed cotton and bulk storage areas is planned.

Achieving more intensive cultivation requires fertilisers. Among schemes being undertaken by specialist chemical engineering consultants are a 200-tonnes-a-day phosphoric acid plant and associated units in Egypt, two very large fertiliser plants in India with a combined capital cost of about £860 million, and an ammonium nitrate plant in Malawi. Last year, a £400 million fertiliser complex was completed in Thailand.

Surveyors

Chartered surveyors are trained to value, develop, cost, conserve, plan, adapt and manage the use of natural resources and the built environment.

British chartered surveyors can be found operating in 150 countries.

A significant development has been an increasing awareness by multinationals of the importance of their property assets. Major British chartered surveying firms have therefore developed their expertise in offering appraisals and valuation advice in the property market. There seem also to be increasing opportunities for surveyors in environmental control and protection assessments.

Europe

The Parisian commercial property market has been particularly dynamic and among the achievements of British firms was a letting by Knight, Frank and Rutley of a site on the Place Vendôme, one of Paris's most famous squares. Richard Ellis handled the negotiations concerning the relocation of the French Ministry of the Interior to a 27,000 sq m (290,000 sq ft) building previously owned by the oil company Elf Aquitaine.

In the residential market Feau-Hampton Résidence (one-third owned by Hampton and Sons of London) sold a property in Parc Monceau to an Arab buyer for £4·5 million.

The entry of Spain into the European Community on 1 January 1986 has intensified the nation's economic links with the rest of Western Europe and British firms, such as Richard Ellis, have conducted a number of large-scale investment transactions and valuations, including an instruction from the Spanish Ministry of Labour to value 858 properties confiscated from trade unions and other organisations by General Franco in 1939.

British firms continue to be active in the highly competitive market for leisure properties in Spain.

Chartered surveyors Debenham Tewson and Chinnocks have successfully completed the sale of Puebla Aida between Malaga and Marbella to the Lovell Group. The sale included 2·6 hectares (6·5 acres) of freehold land and stock and plant. Two hundred houses will be constructed on the land producing more than £12 million in sales.

Tillyard & Partners, chartered quantity surveyors, are providing services for the infrastructure, clubhouse, housing development and social centre for the proposed new 18-hole golf course at San Roque near Gibraltar and similarly for the infrastructure and housing of a self-contained village at the La Manga Club.

There continues to be work for the chartered quantity surveyor in Turkey. Davis Belfield and Everest conducted feasibility studies for new hotels in Istanbul and carried out estimates for a major industrial complex in Izmir. Northcroft Neighbour and Nicholson gave advice in the preparation and valuation of claims on behalf of a European joint venture on a hydroelectric project.

John Foord and Company has undertaken detailed valuations for several confectionery and engineering concerns in France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands.

Far East

For chartered quantity surveyors the Far East seems to offer considerable opportunities.

Among the long list of projects currently undertaken by, for example, Langdon & Every are the China World Trade Centre in Beijing, comprising two hotels, two office buildings, apartment blocks and major convention and conference facilities – a total area of 370,000 sq m (4 million sq ft); a 1,500 bed general hospital serving the eastern side of Hong Kong Island at Shaukeiwan (tenders due out by late 1987); and redevelopment of the headquarters building for the Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong. This project has a total area of 36,500 sq m (390,000 sq ft) and comprises a tower office block over a commercial and retail podium.

In Singapore the firm is working on the indoor stadium designed by Professor Kenzo Tange (Japan) in conjunction with Raglan Squire & Partners. The stadium seats 14,000 people and is being built to multi-purpose international standards with a steel space frame roof of folded construction which is raised and lowered by hydraulic jacks using a computerised monitoring and control system. The raising of the roof allows for maximum seating capacity. The seating itself is retractable by electrical control.

The same firm is involved in Singapore in the redevelopment of Haw Par Villa, where the work comprises the refurbishment and enlargement of the site into a theme park which expresses traditional Chinese mysticism and folklore.

The Changi Engineering Hangar which is being constructed for Singapore International Airlines is the largest single span hangar in the world and can accommodate three 'jumbo jet' aircraft side by side. Other projects include the expansion and redevelopment of Subang international airport, Kuala Lumpur; the 56-storey Malayan banking headquarters building in Kuala Lumpur – total area 186,000 sq m (2 million sq ft); the UBN complex in Kuala Lumpur which houses the 760-guest-room Shangrila hotel – total area 186,000 sq m (2 million sq ft); and the Hong Kong convention and exhibition centre whose total area of 409,000 sq m (4·4 million sq ft) will comprise two major hotels and the largest exhibition centre in Asia.

Another British firm of chartered quantity surveyors, E. C. Harris and Partners, undertook full quantity surveying services for the recently completed Sukarno-Hatta international airport in Indonesia and is currently working on the second phase of a factory project in Singapore for the currency manufacturer, Thomas De La Rue.

In Penang, Malaysia, Henry Butcher and Company held a 3,000 lot auction sale over three days of three complete plants for the manufacture and assembly of personal computers. The sale attracted 1,500 buyers from the United States, Britain, Bulgaria, the Federal Republic of Germany, Australia, Japan and the Pacific basin, and realised approximately £4 million.

Australasia

Australia has become a major area for property investment following the relaxation of restrictions on foreign investment. In Sydney, Richard Ellis are leasing agents for the Grosvenor Place office building which will be the largest tower building in Australia offering over 80,000 sq m (860,000 sq ft) of lettable office accommodation.

The overseas office of Knight Frank and Rutley, Baillieu Knight Frank, was named city agent of the year in Sydney and Melbourne, being number one not only in the value of sales but also in the number of sales in the largest sale category.

John Foord and Company has undertaken detailed valuations of a pharmaceutical concern and a gas/urea enterprise in New Zealand, and an assessment for insurance purposes of the Sydney Opera House, Australia.

Middle East

Despite the economic downturn in the Middle East – caused by falling oil revenues and the Iran-Iraq war – and the consequent slump in property markets and in property development work, the services of chartered surveyors have been much in demand from property owners and banks and accountancy firms.

In 1986 Cluttons, which has offices throughout the region, was frequently called upon to assist with the sale of buildings, plant and machinery by private treaty or auction when companies have gone into liquidation. The company has also dealt with several fire insurance claims, where its role is to ensure proper presentation of the case and management of the reinstatement work.

Against the recessionary trend Turner and Townsend, chartered quantity surveyors, opened a new office in Abu Dhabi in January. Work in the office is directed to claims arising from all types of construction contracts.

Continuing Middle East projects include the provision of quantity surveying services by the firm of Langdon & Every for a new headquarters building for the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait in Bahrain (see p 320 under 'Architects' – Abbey Hanson Rowe Partnership); a national assembly building in Abu Dhabi; and the development of a residential package, an infrastructure package and a landscaping package for the Arabian Gulf University. The clients for the last project comprise Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

E. C. Harris and Partners are providing contractual advice on a power station and a dockside facility for a coke handling plant – both in Kuwait – contractual advice on a bank headquarters in Bahrain, and consultancy services for electricity distribution and power generation for a naval base in Oman.

Other Work

Healey & Baker Inc have recently been appointed exclusive European leasing agents for Seventeen State Street, a landmark building dominating the entrance

of New York harbour. At present, the clients are seeking only international tenants for the building. Sophisticated selective marketing techniques were used in this project.

Despite the depressed state of the mining industry world-wide the minerals management firm of Wardell Armstrong last year completed a pre-feasibility study of an underground coal mine on the Andean divide in Peru for the International Finance Corporation, and appraised a £250 million Rampura Aguacha-Chanderiya lead-zinc mining and smelting project for possible aid funding in India with Britain's Overseas Development Administration as client.

Tourism

The economic contribution of Britain's tourism industry continues to grow in significance. The number of visits by overseas tourists to Britain in 1986 was the second highest on record, despite a sharp and unusual fall-off in visits in the second quarter of the year. The £5,400 million spent by these visitors virtually matched the record total of 1985. With domestic tourism earnings reaching a new record level of £7,100 million, overall tourism spending amounted to 4 per cent of gross domestic product, and related employment rose to 1·3 million.

The Department of Employment's annual tourism report,[1] published in July, says that overseas earnings from tourism in 1986 were equivalent to about 10 per cent of all earnings from manufactured exports. They were a fifth as much again as aerospace exports and four times greater than exports of motor vehicles. Employment related to tourism and leisure grew for the fourth year in succession, and increased by 23 per cent in the ten years to June 1986. Over the same period jobs in service industries as a whole grew by only 11 per cent. Over 100,000 jobs were created in tourism industries between June 1984 and June 1986, a rise of 9 per cent. See Table 1.

This article provides details of the performance of the tourism industry in 1986, drawn from the Department of Employment's report and other sources, and also surveys the activities of the statutory tourism bodies in 1986 as set out in their annual reports.[2]

[1] *Tourism '87. Making the Most of Heritage.* Available free from the Department of Employment, Steel House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NF. A simplified leaflet version of the report, *A Bumper Year for Tourism*, is also available free from the same source.

[2] *British Tourist Authority. Annual report for the year ended 31 March 1987.* Available from the BTA, Thames Tower, Black's Road, London W6 9EL. £5. ISBN 0 7095 2969 4.

English Tourist Board. Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 1987. Available from the ETB, Thames Tower, Black's Road, London W6 9EL. £5.

Scottish Tourist Board 18th Annual Report 1986-87. Available from the STB at 23 Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh EH4 3EU. £6.

Wales Tourist Board Annual Report for the year ending March 31 1987. Available from the WTB at Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Road, Cardiff CF2 1UY. £5.

Northern Ireland Tourist Board Annual Report 1986-87. Available from the NITB at River House, 48 High Street, Belfast BT1 2DS. £2.

Overseas Visitors

Some 13·8 million overseas visitors came to Britain in 1986, the second highest ever number, following the record 14·5 million in 1985 (see Table 2). A sharp fall in the number of visitors was experienced in April, May and June of 1986, reflecting the unwillingness of North American visitors to travel to Europe after the United States bombing action in Libya and the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Soviet Union. The Department of Employment report notes that the number of visitors from North America fell by 25 per cent over the whole year; visits from Western Europe increased by 5 per cent in number, however, and total visits fell by only 4 per cent, indicating the broad market base. Many of Britain's European competitors fared worse.

About 60 per cent of the 1986 visitors came from Western Europe, 21 per cent from North America, and the rest mainly from the Far East and Australasia. See Table 3.

The purposes for which these visitors came were: holidays 43 per cent, business 23 per cent, visits to friends and relatives 21 per cent, and others 13 per cent. Day trips accounted for 5 per cent of the total.

In broad terms, about 12 million overseas visitors spent one night or more in England (half of these away from London), with Scotland and Wales reporting one million and half a million visitors respectively. Northern Ireland had over 800,000 'out of state' visitors.

Spending

Spending by overseas tourists was some £5,435 million in current prices, much the same level as in 1985 (See Table 2). In constant (1980) prices, however, it fell from £3,700 million in 1985 to £3,300 million. The 1985 figure had been a record peak in constant prices, representing a recovery from the 1982 figure (£2,500 million), and just exceeding the previous peak of £3,600 million in 1977.

For comparison, figures published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) show that Britain's international tourist receipts were $US7,000 million at current prices in 1985, while those of other major European countries (in million dollars) were Italy (8,750), Spain (8,100), France (7,900), Federal Republic of Germany (5,900) and Austria (5,050). (Receipts of other major OECD countries, also in million dollars, were: United States, 11,650; Canada, 3,100; Japan, 1,150; and Australia, 1,050.)

Tourism Balance

The £5,435 million spent by overseas tourists in Britain in 1986 was more than offset by spending by British tourists going abroad. This totalled some £6,070 million, giving a deficit on the tourism account of £635 million. There was a surplus of £570 million in 1985, but this had been the first surplus since 1980, the account having previously been in surplus throughout the 1970s, reaching a peak in 1977 of £1,166 million.

While the number of overseas visitors fell to 13·8 million in 1986 from 14·4 million in the previous year, visits abroad by British tourists rose from 21·6 million in 1985 to 25·2 million in 1986, a rise of 17 per cent. Visits to North America were up by 28 per cent to 1·2 million and those to Western Europe by 17 per cent to 22·1 million.

Table 1

Employment in Tourism-related Industries in Great Britain

'000

	June 1982	June 1984	June 1986
Cafes, restaurants and take-away food shops	194·1	213·1	224·8
Public houses and bars	236·0	251·7	269·5
Night-clubs and licensed clubs	138·5	137·6	143·1
Hotels and other tourist accommodation	267·4	265·7	284·5
Libraries, museums, art galleries, sports and other recreational services	336·8	333·6	384·1
Total	1,172·8	1,201·7	1,305·9

Source: *Employment Gazette.*

Table 2

Overseas Visitors and their Spending

	Total all visits	Visitors from		Expenditure (£ million at current prices)
		North America	Western Europe	
1982	11,636	2,135	7,082	3,188
1983	12,464	2,836	7,164	4,003
1984	13,644	3,330	7,551	4,614
1985	14,449	3,797	7,870	5,442
1986	13,844	2,843	8,302	5,435

Source: Department of Employment.

Table 3

Overseas Visitors and their Expenditure 1986

	'000 Visits 1986	% Change 1985-86	Expenditure £million·1986	% Change 1985-86
France	1,750	+8	277	+11
Federal Republic of Germany	1,589	+7	340	+41
Irish Republic	984	+2	245	0
Netherlands	760	0	122	+6
Rest of Western Europe	3,164	+4	1,089	+12
Canada	546	−13	208	−10
United States	2,285	−28	1,249	−15
Australia and New Zealand	559	+1	315	+4
Middle East	533	−9	547	−16
Rest of the world	1,603	−2	1,012	+6
Total*	13,772	−5	5,405	−1

*The totals differ slightly from the figures given in Table 2, which are later and revised.

Source: *British Tourist Authority Annual Report.*

First Half of 1987

Estimates for the first half of 1987 show a healthier position than in 1986. There were 6·8 million visits to Britain by overseas residents and they spent just over £2,500 million, a rise in both cases of 16 per cent on the first half of the preceding year. The number of visits by North American residents was 24 per cent higher, and that by Western European residents 18 per cent higher.

There was a rise of 7 per cent to 10·9 million in the number of visits abroad by British residents and their spending rose by 14 per cent to £2,690 million, giving a tourism account deficit of £175 million compared with £190 million in the same period in 1986.

Domestic Tourism

Visits of one or more nights by British residents increased slightly from 126 million in 1985 to 128 million in 1986 and their spending in England, Scotland and Wales together increased by 13 per cent to £7,100 million. In constant prices this was a rise of 6 per cent. Not all sectors of tourism benefited equally,

however; the year was a difficult one for many traditional resorts relying on domestic summer holiday visitors.

Figures for domestic tourism by region, contained in the British Tourist Authority's annual British Tourism Survey, show that the West Country (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Avon, Wiltshire and part of Dorset) continues to account for about a fifth of holidays taken in Great Britain by British residents. Of the other 13 tourism regions, Wales accounts for 12 per cent and Scotland and the Southern region (Hampshire and the rest of Dorset) both account for about 11 per cent. These are followed by East Anglia, the North West, Yorkshire and Humberside and the South East, each of which has a share of between 7 and 9 per cent of domestic tourism by volume.

There are indications that 1986 was as good a year for day trips to major attractions as was the record year of 1985.

The Role of the Government and the Tourist Boards

The actual development of the tourism industry depends primarily on businessmen, the Department of Employment's report says. The role of the Government is to ensure that the economic benefits of tourism are maximised. It does this by identifying ways of giving more support to tourism's contribution to employment generation and by dealing with administrative problems and other obstacles to the development of tourism. For the latter purpose the Government has a well-established deregulation campaign (see pp 208-9). Support for employment generation is achieved mainly through the statutory tourism boards which were set up under the Development of Tourism Act 1969.

The responsibilities of the British Tourist Authority under the Act are: to promote tourism to Britain from overseas; to advise the Government on tourism matters affecting Britain as a whole; and to encourage the provision and improvement of tourist amenities and facilities. The Authority receives a government grant-in-aid to carry out its promotional work; this was £20 million in 1986-87, and was raised to £22 million for 1987-88.

The English Tourist Board and its Scottish and Welsh equivalents have as their main functions the promotion of their respective countries as holiday destinations and the encouragement of the provision and improvement of tourism amenities and facilities. The Government provides funds to the boards to carry out their promotional and development activities, including the operation of schemes of selective financial asistance to tourism development projects under section 4 of the Development of Tourism Act 1969. Grants-in-aid for the financial year 1986-87 were £10·8 million for the English Tourist Board, £6·3 million for the Scottish Tourist Board, and £5·4 million for the Wales Tourist Board. Section 4 expenditure in the form of grants and loans totalled £9·5 million, £2·8 million and £2·5 million respectively. For 1987-88 Section 4 funds have been increased to £12 million for England and to £3 million each for the other two boards. In England 12 non-statutory regional boards, who receive part of their income from the English Tourist Board, promote tourism in their particular areas, working in partnership with the Board, local government and trade interests. Scotland and Wales also have area office networks.

In Northern Ireland, where tourism is administered under separate legislation, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board receives a grant-in-aid from the Department of Economic Development (£2·7 million in 1986-87), but the Department itself directly administers funds which are paid to the industry in the form of development grants (£3 million in 1986-87).

Annual Reports: Some Recent Developments

Department of Employment

The report notes that a clearer definition of the objectives of the statutory boards is 'to spread the economic and employment benefits of tourism more widely, and to encourage tourism activity outside the main holiday season'. Marketing strategies, for example, are being directed to promote short-break holidays, to stimulate all-year round demand, and to support projects in areas of higher unemployment with untapped tourism potential.

For London in the 1990s the focus will be on the city's attractions for the business market, the conference and exhibition market, as a short-break holiday centre for people with special interests and as a centre for study visits by people learning English. London's docklands, meanwhile, are being transformed into an area with considerable potential for tourism. Outside London, new international routes are being created into Manchester airport.

Information for visitors is now much more helpful than before, with the spread of the tourist information centre networks in England, Scotland and Wales, the increasing use of brown and white tourism signposts, the development of hotel and caravan park classification schemes, and the more effective use of modern communications technology by the industry.

The Government is acting to relax the restrictions on the hours during which alcoholic drinks may be served in pubs and restaurants and is determined to bring more sense and consistency to the regulation of Sunday trading in England and Wales.

A wide range of educational and training initiatives is under way with a co-ordinating role being played by the Manpower Services Commission.

A growing awareness of Britain's heritage underpins successful growth in tourism and there is growing co-operation among the various heritage interests in Britain.

British Tourist Authority

The report states that encouraging overseas visitors to travel around Britain more during their stays is an important objective, and is one of the aims of the British Travel Centre which opened in central London in June 1986 and was set up jointly with British Rail and American Express. The Centre is open seven days a week and offers currency exchange, travel tickets, a bookshop and booking services for both accommodation and theatres.

The Authority undertook 100 advertising campaigns in 26 markets in 1986. It is currently emphasising the attractions of Scotland, Wales, and the northern, midlands and south-west regions in England, in line with government objectives. It is concentrating its efforts on the North American, Australian, north European and Japanese markets.

In its product marketing the Authority is working towards meeting the demand for information on special interest, hobby and activity holidays.

In a poll of 200 United States travel editors, the Authority's public relations material was voted second in quality only to that of Walt Disney Productions. No other tourist office was included in the top ten.

English Tourist Board

The Board's funds for assisting development projects are being increased by 28 per cent to £12 million in 1987-88. Over the next few years the Board aims to stimulate total investment of up to £4,000 million; the target is that £600 million of this should directly result from the Board's development spending under the Development of Tourism Act. An innovation fund is being set up for projects costing over £100,000 and a small businesses fund for smaller-scale initiatives. The Board also plans to develop its consultancy service on the financing of projects.

A major vehicle for new investment will be the tourism development action programmes which are intended to bring together local interests in dynamic partnerships which link the private and public sectors.

The Board published marketing and development strategies[1] in the first half of 1987. The emphasis of the development strategy will be on all-weather facilities, heritage attractions, theme parks, leisure shopping, exhibition and conference centres, marina and harbour developments and rural tourism. It is hoped that 200,000 jobs in tourism can be created over the next five years.

Domestic tourists made 106 million trips in 1986 and spent £5,600 million. Foreign tourists made 12·7 million visits and spent £4,900 million.

Scottish Tourist Board

A comprehensive business plan was produced in 1986-87 as a first step in strategic planning in consultation with the tourism industry. Its aims include the generation of jobs in tourism through the Board's development policies and the provision of new all-weather entertainment and visitor attractions in areas of most need. It is thought that between 11,700 and 26,500 jobs could be generated, depending on the growth rate achieved. The Board also plans to upgrade tourism services as well as tourism facilities and to develop its classification and grading schemes for accommodation.

The British market continued to be Scotland's biggest source of visitors, with 12 million tourist trips and expenditure of £1,224 million. Scottish residents accounted for 6·4 million (53 per cent) of the trips. Overseas visitors made 1·1 million trips and spent £320 million.

Wales Tourist Board

In July 1986 the Board began to prepare a development strategy in consultation with the tourism trade, local government, and other agencies. The aims of the strategy are to assess the strengths and weaknesses of Wales's tourism resources and products against current and forecast marketing trends; and to identify the potential for future development with a view to meeting market demands, maximising job creation and extending the season.

The 1992 Garden Festival is to be at Ebbw Vale.

The Board estimates that Wales earned £500 million from domestic tourism in 1986, the same as in 1985 at current prices. Although 1986 figures for overseas tourism to Wales are not yet available, a maintenance of the country's market share of visits and expenditure would mean that Wales earned £95 million from overseas visitors.

[1] *A Vision for England: Tourism Strategy*. Available free from the English Tourist Board, Thames Tower, Black's Road, London W6 9EL.

Shorter Notes

INVISIBLE TRADE

A report from the British Invisible Exports Council on world invisible trade shows that in 1985 – the latest year for which a full international comparison is possible – Britain was in second place, behind the United States, in terms of its surplus, its receipts and its payments; all these rankings were the same as in 1984. (The rankings are not consistent with those published in previous years by the Council. The latest calculations take into account the fact that, since 1985, Britain's Balance of Payments 'Pink Book' has contained data for credits and debits for certain banking transactions instead of, as previously, a single net amount; this has had the effect of raising the figures for Britain's receipts and payments and hence its position in both sets of rankings.) Britain's receipts were 16·6 per cent of the world total and its payments 13·5 per cent. (For information on Britain's invisible trade in 1986, see pp 296-7.)

Source: *Invisible Trade in the World Economy 1972-85*. British Invisible Exports Council, 6th Floor, Dunster House, 37 Mincing Lane, London EC3R 7BQ. £10.

DERELICT LAND CLEARANCE

Environmental improvements, which have been widely welcomed by employers, other investors and residents, have arisen from derelict land grants in England, according to a study for the Department of the Environment, published on 16 September. Government aid towards the treatment of derelict land has been available to local authorities on a generally increasing scale, particularly since the 1960s, and legislation has been mainly consolidated in the Derelict Land Act 1982.

Derelict land grant is available to reclaim land so damaged by industrial or other uses that it is incapable of beneficial use without treatment. In most parts of England the rate of grant is 50 per cent, but in the assisted areas and in special derelict land clearance areas the rate is 100 per cent for local authorities and 80 per cent for other bodies. There has been a shift in emphasis towards its use for urban sites, particularly in inner cities, and towards reclamation for development as opposed to open space and agriculture. The

grant is seen by the Government increasingly as 'an active instrument of urban regeneration, rather than simply a way of removing the environmental and safety problems caused by dereliction'.

The study says that the objectives of removing danger and improving environmental quality are met successfully in virtually all cases. Those relating to the provision of development land have proved more difficult to achieve, or are taking longer to be achieved, with some sites remaining vacant. However, where sites reclaimed for industrial, commercial or housing uses have been developed and occupied, considerable benefits have accrued, with the results being concentrated in urban areas (especially the inner cities). Average investment 'leverage' (the ratio of private investment generated to the cost of derelict land grant) was approximately ten for industrial/commercial sites and six for housing sites. An estimated 127,000 sq m (1·4 million sq ft) of industrial and warehousing floorspace have been or are being built and some 5,000 jobs provided on reclaimed sites, while over 10,000 housing units have also been constructed. In the majority of cases the grant stimulated or brought forward reclamation rather than subsidising expenditure which would have occurred anyway.

Particular success with reclamation schemes has been achieved where a number of schemes and other measures have been combined to upgrade specific areas. The Department of the Environment acknowledges the importance of this approach and has approved a number of 'rolling programmes' to improve areas of concentrated or widespread dereliction, such as on Tyneside and in Sheffield.

Welcoming the report, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment with responsibility for urban regeneration, Mr David Trippier, said that the report highlighted 'many of the successes of the Government's derelict land grant programme, including the removal of eyesores and the creation of opportunities for the revival of [the] inner cities'. In particular, it showed the valuable role that could be played by the private sector, 'given modest encouragement by government grants'. He also welcomed many of the consultants' recommendations for improving value for money from the grants and said that a number had already been implemented.

Sources: *Evaluation of Derelict Land Grant Schemes.* Roger Tym and Partners in association with Land Use Consultants. Department of the Environment. HMSO, £13·50. ISBN 0 11 752005 5; Department of the Environment press notice, 16.9.87.

EUREKA CONFERENCE

The Eureka programme involves firms and research institutions from 19 European nations in collaborative high technology research projects (see p 22). The fifth Eureka Ministerial Conference in Madrid on 15 September approved 58 new projects, bringing the total to 165 with a combined value of more than £2,800 million. British companies and research institutions are full participants in 17 of the new projects, with a total value of £300 million. These include the development of advanced robots for underwater survey and inspection work; studies for a future rotocraft (a cross between a helicopter and a high speed aeroplane); the design and development of fast optical transmission systems; and the creation of a more unified European market for educational software. British organisations are now full participants in 57 Eureka projects and have an interest in about 40 more.

Speaking at the conference, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Kenneth Clarke, welcomed the fact that Eureka projects were industry-led and thus influenced by market opportunities. He announced that, following a pilot study financed by the British Government (see p 22), a management development workshop for firms participating in Eureka projects would be held in London on 20 November. European collaboration could pose new management problems, especially for smaller firms, he said, and the workshop was designed to help them to cope with these.

The conference also agreed to set up a new database of Eureka project information, to establish links with the private financial sector, and to allow, in exceptional cases, firms from non-Eureka countries to join in its projects.

Source: Department of Trade and Industry press notice, 15.9.87.

MONTREAL AGREEMENT ON STRATOSPHERIC OZONE

Britain, together with the European Commission, has signed an international agreement on measures to control chemicals that deplete the ozone layer, following negotiations in Montreal in September under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (see p 98, 1984, and p 23, 1985). The agreement, a protocol to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, is due to come into force on 1 January 1989, providing that it is ratified by 11 countries representing two-thirds of world consumption. Britain views the protocol as a signal to industry on the importance of developing substitutes for the chemicals in the timetable laid down (see p 330).

The ozone layer, which forms part of the stratosphere (a region between 10 and 15 km – 6 and 30 miles – above the earth) has a greater concentration of ozone (molecules containing three atoms of oxygen) than air at any other height. It is important as it absorbs ultra-violet light and prevents too much of the latter from reaching the ground, where it has the potential adversely to affect human life and the environment. The amount of ozone in the stratosphere is determined by physical and chemical processes, including winds and turbulence, chemical reactions within it and the effects of radiation.

In 1985 the Department of the Environment and the Meteorological Office invited a number of British scientists to found the Stratospheric Ozone Review Group. Their first report (published in 1987; see p 330) draws attention to the gradual decrease of ozone in the upper stratosphere since 1978; the large depletion (over 40 per cent) in stratospheric ozone which has recently occurred over Antarctica in the

spring; and the increasing concentration of several of the source gases, such as methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide, and chemicals which influence the amount of ozone in the atmosphere.

The main family of chemicals concerned is the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which are used as propellants in aerosol sprays, refrigerants and solvents, and for the manufacture of rigid and flexible foam. Released from the earth's surface, they are decomposed by sunlight into chlorine which leads to the breakdown of ozone. Halons, compounds which contain bromine and are used in fire extinguishers, though not so numerous as CFCs, are even more effective in depleting ozone.

The agreement aims to achieve a reduction of at least half in the consumption of CFCs before the end of the century, with consumption in 1990 being restricted to the level of 1987, and being reduced by 20 per cent after five years, and by a further 30 per cent after ten years. Consumption of halons will be kept strictly at current 1987 levels some three to four years after the protocol comes into force.

Sources: Department of the Environment press notice, 17.9.87; *Stratospheric Ozone*. United Kingdom Stratospheric Ozone Review Group. HMSO, £9·95. ISBN 0 11 752018 7.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Housing

The Government's proposals for reforming housing legislation in England and Wales were set out in a White Paper, published on 29 September. The proposals aim to reverse the decline in the rented housing sector and to improve its quality, to give council tenants the right to transfer to other landlords, to direct money to the most acute problems, and to continue to encourage the growth of home ownership.

Speaking at the publication of the White Paper,[1] the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Nicholas Ridley, said that the Government's policy aimed to achieve 'a long-term transformation of the rented housing market in Britain'. In most of Britain's industrial competitors the private rented sector flourished, but in Britain too much control had almost destroyed private rented housing. The proposals would meet the needs of those who had to rent homes and of prospective private landlords. He also wished to build on the success of housing associations in providing social housing. Council tenants would be able to choose a new landlord or to take over the ownership and management of their estates. Housing action trusts would be established to renovate the worst areas of public sector housing. The role of local authorities would change from that of landlord towards that of 'facilitator', with a responsibility to encourage and co-ordinate the activities of all those with the resources capable of meeting local housing needs.

Mr Ridley said that public expenditure and public ownership had not given the people the kind of homes they wanted. The policies outlined in the White Paper would provide a framework which would 'attract private money and expertise into housing' and would give families 'more choice and better housing whether they own or rent'.

WHITE PAPER

Housing Trends

The White Paper says that housing conditions have improved considerably during the twentieth century, with the amount of space per person having increased so that it is among the highest in Europe. Nearly all houses have the basic amenities and the general condition of the housing stock is good, with very few remaining slums. However, there are some major problems of disrepair in the rented sector, in both the public and the private sectors, particularly in some urban areas.

Four major changes in the pattern of occupation have occurred. First, there has been a substantial increase in owner-occupation, with about two-thirds of houses in England and Wales being owner-occupied, one of the highest proportions in the world. Secondly, the private rented sector has declined from about 90 per cent of housing stock in 1914 to 8 per cent in 1986. Thirdly, there has been a growth in council housing, which accounts for 24 per cent of housing stock, compared with 10 per cent in 1939. Fourthly, housing associations (non-profit-making bodies) have expanded their role, so that their dwellings have grown by 80 per cent since 1976 to nearly 500,000.

The Government welcomes the growth in owner-occupation, which it has strongly encouraged. Although this has led to less emphasis on renting, the White Paper says that this is not the sole cause for the rapid decline in private renting. Rent controls have prevented property owners from obtaining an adequate return on investment, while people who might have been prepared to offer a temporary letting have been deterred by laws on security of tenure. These factors have contributed to shortages of supply and poor maintenance. 'The private sector can offer greater flexibility and responsiveness to market demand', and can provide housing in a way that encourages labour mobility and meets the changing needs of individuals and the economy as a whole.

Although the growth of local authority housing has been effective in increasing the housing stock and in clearing slums, the White Paper says that the system of ownership and management is 'often not in the tenant's best long-term interest'. 'In many big cities local authority housing operations are so large that they inevitably risk becoming distant and bureaucratic', while 'insensitive design and bad management have alienated tenants and left housing badly maintained'. As the quality of housing and the environment has declined, social problems have emerged, including increased crime and the disappearance of local enterprise and employment. The problems have often been aggravated by indiscriminate subsidies from the rates (the local property tax) to hold down rents, leading to a waste of resources and damage to the independence and self-motivation of communities. The Government's aim is to begin to reverse this process in the worst-affected areas, and to support the independence of local communities by giving more oppor-

[1] *Housing: The Government's Proposals.* Cm 214. HMSO, £3·30. ISBN 0 10 102142 9.

tunity for tenants to control their own destinies and by directing help to those in genuine need.

Objectives

The White Paper sets out the Government's four main objectives for future housing policy and as a basis for forthcoming legislation:

1 It will continue 'to spread home ownership as widely as possible, through encouraging suitable market conditions, continuing tax relief on mortgage interest, and pressing on with the right to buy'.

2 It will stimulate the independent rented sector, so that letting of private property will become economic. Housing associations will be able to expand their provision for housing at rents affordable by tenants, while the system of grants will be restructured so that private finance can be fully employed.

3 Local authorities will be encouraged to change their role, and their provision of housing should gradually be diminished, while alternative forms of tenure and tenant choice should be developed.

4 The Government will focus the use of public money more effectively, so that tenants receive a better deal. A new financial regime for local housing authorities will encourage more businesslike management of their remaining stock.

The private sector, the White Paper emphasises, has 'a vital part to play in achieving these objectives'. Taxes and rates should not be used to pay for the provision and modernisation of public rented housing. There must be a contribution from higher rents, together with 'a drive for disposal of public sector housing to other landlords, including the private sector and housing associations. This will reduce the pressure on public sector funds; will provide more housing for a given amount of public spending through private sector involvement; and will enable local authorities to move towards a more strategic housing role.'

Owner-occupation

The White Paper says that home ownership gives people independence and a sense of greater personal responsibility, and helps to spread the nation's wealth more widely. 'These are important factors in the creation of a more stable and prosperous society, and they justify the favourable tax treatment accorded to borrowing for house purchase by owner-occupiers.'

Surveys have shown that most households would prefer to own their home rather than rent it, while owner-occupiers usually take 'a strong interest in maintaining and improving their homes'. The spread of owner-occupation has therefore helped to maintain the condition of the housing stock. For these reasons the Government 'will continue to give strong support to the growth of owner-occupation'.

The Government has encouraged the smooth operation of the housing market through the liberalisation of financial markets to support the process of buying, selling and constructing houses, leading to keen competition between building societies, banks and other financial institutions to provide mortgage finance to purchasers. It has also encouraged liberalisation, competition and improved services in other aspects of house purchase, such as estate agency. The White Paper says that it is a key requirement that the planning system should ensure an adequate and continuing supply of land for housing. Much of the land needed can be found by re-using sites and by making use of vacant land in urban areas. 'The Government will continue to encourage full and effective use of land in urban areas, both through the planning system and by financial support for the reclamation of derelict land [see p 328] and for urban regeneration.'

Most people buy their homes with a mortgage loan, but some prospective purchasers are initially unable to afford the cost. Under the concept of shared ownership, a purchaser buys a proportion of a property on the usual mortgage basis, but rents the remainder from a suitable agency, often a housing association. As the purchaser's income grows, he or she is able to increase the proportion owned until eventually becoming the full owner. This has proved a useful concept, and the Government will be encouraging its further development.

Right to Buy

The White Paper says that the right of local authority tenants to buy the homes they occupy has proved to be 'one of the most successful reforms undertaken by the present Government'. About 1 million tenants have already bought their homes since 1979. Most landlords have administered the scheme fairly and efficiently, but a few local authorities have been slow in handling sales. The Government is proposing that a tenant should have the power to serve notice on a landlord to proceed; failure to proceed would result in the tenant having the power to pay the rent to a deposit holder who would keep the rent and accrued interest towards the cost of the sale when completed.

Repair and Improvement

Government proposals on home repair and improvement take account of the comments received on the Green Paper issued in 1985 (see pp 211-12, 1985). Private spending by individual owners already accounts for the vast majority of resources devoted to improving the housing stock. However, where owners are unable to afford the full cost of essential repair and improvement, the Government accepts that help should be given through a reformed system of improvement grants. The four types of grant will be replaced by a single mandatory grant to bring property up to a new standard of fitness. Above this standard, grant assistance will be at the discretion of local authorities. 'Grant entitlement, currently based on rateable values, will be fairly determined by a straightforward test of household resources', taking into account the cost of the work needed and the household's ability to finance the work from income and savings. To simplify administration, the new test will be aligned with the reformed systems for income support and housing benefit (see p 73, 1986).

The Government also intends to encourage local authorities to direct help to the areas of greatest housing need. A single type of statutory renewal area will replace 'general improvement areas' and 'housing action areas', which were set up to enable local authorities to tackle the improvement of whole areas of older housing systematically. Within the new areas, local authorities will be encouraged to develop a wider combination of renovation and selective redevelopment. New group repair arrangements will replace the 'enveloping' and block repair arrangements, which covered the renovation of whole terraces or streets in

housing action areas which had deteriorated beyond routine maintenance, and will be available both within and outside the new areas.

Renting in the Private Sector

According to the White Paper, tenants have not benefited from rent restrictions, as the supply of privately rented housing has fallen below the level needed, and its condition has deteriorated. The Government has already made some progress on enabling private landlords to charge rents on new lettings that will ensure a reasonable return. The Housing Act 1980 created the concept of 'assured tenancies', under which new and substantially renovated dwellings can be let by approved landlords at freely negotiated rents. Assured tenants have full security of tenure for the duration of the initial tenancy, provided they comply with its terms. At the end of the period the tenant has a right to a new tenancy on terms which may be agreed between the parties or, if they cannot agree, at a market rate fixed by a county court. The Act also created a new tenure of 'shorthold' lettings, to assist potential landlords who may be prepared to let for a period at a restricted rent, provided that there is a guarantee of obtaining their property at the end of the period. Landlords may let for a fixed period, but either a landlord or a tenant may apply for the registration of a fair rent. Under these two schemes more properties have become available, although on a limited scale. Local authorities will have a new power under the Local Government Bill (see p 226) to give financial assistance for the provision of independent rented housing, and the Government hopes that they will use this to encourage the development of privately financed schemes at rents which tenants will be able to afford.

The Government does not propose any substantial changes in the regime for existing tenancies under the Rent Acts. However, it proposes that for all new lettings, from the date that the legislation comes into force, landlords should be able to choose to let either on the assured tenancy basis or on the shorthold basis (but with the rent at a market level rather than a fair rent level). Most remaining controls over new lettings by resident landlords would be removed. The Government recognises the need to provide safeguards for tenants and intends to increase the protection of tenants from harassment by landlords.

Housing Associations

The Government's view is that housing associations have 'a vitally important part to play in the revival of the independent rented sector'. They have contributed substantially in developing new styles of management and new forms of low-cost home ownership. Most rented homes come within the fair rent arrangements, and government finance covers about 80 to 90 per cent of the cost of schemes through housing association grant, although alternative financial possibilities with greater involvement from the private sector and less from the public sector have been examined with government encouragement. Under the Government's proposals to develop these arrangements, for new lettings housing associations would let on an assured tenancy basis or on a shorthold basis in the same way as the private rented sector. This is intended to give the associations the flexibility in setting rents to enable them to meet the requirements of private sector finance instead of relying on public finance. Housing association grant will continue for that part of the cost of new developments and refurbishments that cannot be covered by rental income.

Role of Local Authorities

The White Paper says that the future role of local authorities will essentially be strategic, 'identifying housing needs and demands, encouraging innovative methods of provision by other bodies to meet such needs, maximising the use of private finance, and encouraging the new interest in the revival of the independent rented sector'. Although there will be a decline in the number of people in local authority housing from the current level of some 4·5 million houses and flats, with about 13 million residents, the White Paper says that it is important to improve conditions for remaining tenants. Many authorities have developed innovative approaches to improve the quality of life on individual estates, while some have developed new forms of decentralised management and tenant involvement. The Department of the Environment's Estate Action team has been working with local authorities since 1985 to tackle the problems of individual estates and to target resources more effectively. They work on a number of basic principles, including the need to adapt solutions to the requirements of an estate, control of management and maintenance services within an estate, and the need to gain tenants' confidence at all stages in proposals for development. The team's work has highlighted the importance of involving the private sector wherever possible in refurbishment, both for sale and rent. A new financial regime for local authority housing is also planned.

Arrangements are to be introduced to allow council tenants to choose to transfer to other landlords, offering a remedy for those who receive poor service. Many approved landlords will be housing associations, although some will be commercial landlords. Tenants will also be able to form a co-operative with their neighbours. Special arrangements will be necessary for flats, but the general position will be to allow the transfer of the freehold of a block of flats where the majority of tenants want to do so.

Housing Action Trusts

The White Paper says that there are some areas of local authority housing, especially in some inner urban areas, where social problems and housing disrepair are so serious that additional action is required. Urban development corporations in London and on Merseyside[1] have achieved results in developing run-down areas which the local authorities have not been able to achieve. The Government is proposing to take powers to establish similar bodies, to be known as 'housing action trusts' in designated areas to take over responsibility for local authority housing, renovate it and then pass it to other owners and managers, including housing associations, tenants' co-operatives and approved private landlords. The trusts will also act to facilitate the provision of other community needs, such as shops, workshops and advice centres, and to encourage local enterprise.

[1]For information on the functions and operation of urban development corporations see COI reference paper *Industrial Regeneration in Britain's Cities*, No 263/86.

The Misuse of Drugs in Sport

A recently published official review dealing with the problem of drug abuse in sport recommends that there should be independent, random testing of sportsmen and women as well as tough and consistent penalties for offenders.

The review,[1] published on 18 September, says that the misuse of drugs in sport to enhance performance is an abhorrent practice widely recognised by participants and sports governing bodies as a major threat to the successful development of sport. It constituted a major health hazard and was contrary to the spirit of fair competition because it could confer unfair advantage on the user. Regrettably, the practice seemed to be growing, not only among top-level sportsmen and women but also among many people using local health and fitness centres. The problem was not simply an ethical one for sportsmen and women: sport, with its undoubted attractions for young people, high public profile and constant media coverage, had a responsibility to lead the way in the fight against drug abuse generally in society.

Existing arrangements for detecting and controlling drug abuse in sport are examined in the review, which states that Britain has in many respects led the world in combating the problem. Governing bodies in Britain, supported and funded by the Sports Council, have introduced codes of conduct and drug testing programmes, while the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has drawn up internationally recognised guidelines on drug abuse and banned substances. The Sports Council finances the Drug Control and Teaching Centre at King's College, University of London, which is accredited by the IOC for drug testing. It also provides the chairman and secretariat for the Anti-Doping Working Group of the European Sports Conference. Legislative controls over the importation, marketing and distribution of medicinal products are contained in the Medicines Act 1968 and subordinate legislation. In 1967 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution condemning the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sport and in 1984 a European Anti-Doping Charter for Sport was devised as an advisory document for all member states.

The review concludes that while existing arrangements had kept drug misuse in Britain in check to some degree, they were open to manipulation and evasion; in addition, penalties varied from sport to sport. There appeared to be too many loopholes within present arrangements and insufficient security for satisfactory levels of effectiveness and confidence to be achieved.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The review considers that a new and strengthened regime for drug testing should be set up. Testing should be independent and carried out by trained and approved officers. It needed to be more effective, rigorous and entirely random, with all competitors, in or out of competition, being available for testing and required to make a personal declaration of willingness to be tested. Penalties for taking illegal drugs should be severe and consistent.

The Sports Council's Drug Abuse Advisory Group should be re-formed to oversee the new regime, and there would need to be wide publicity given by sports bodies, with the co-operation of the media and sponsors, to the effects of drug-taking and to offenders and offences. Moreover, further consideration ought to be given to extending relevant legislation.

The Sports Council has been invited to endorse the views expressed in the review and, in consultation with interested parties, to bring forward detailed proposals for a new drug testing regime within six weeks.

The review will be presented to the Ministerial Group on the Misuse of Drugs, which is chaired by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office with special responsibility for drugs, Mr Douglas Hogg.

[1] *The Misuse of Drugs in Sport. A report by the Minister for Sport, Mr Colin Moynihan, and the Vice Chairmen of the Sports Council, Mr Sebastian Coe.* Available free from the Department of the Environment, Romney House, 43 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3PY.

Shorter Notes

MINISTERIAL GROUP ON ALCOHOL MISUSE

The Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, has announced the establishment of an inter-departmental group to review and develop the Government's strategy for combating the misuse of alcohol. The group, which will be chaired by the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons, Mr John Wakeham, will include ministers and officials from the Department of Health and Social Security, Home Office, Department of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Education and Science, Treasury and Department of Employment as well as the Scottish and Welsh Offices.

Announcing the establishment of the group, the Home Secretary said that to be effective, action on alcohol misuse needed to focus on particular problems and be co-ordinated across the range of policies which included health education, crime prevention and road safety. A number of government departments were involved, including those concerned with the interests of the drinks industry. Much was already being done to co-ordinate strategy, but until now there had been no single mechanism for looking at the picture as a whole. The group was designed to serve that need.

The group's responsibilities will include: developing proposals for the more effective implementation of the Government's strategy for combating alcohol misuse; examining priorities for the future allocation and deployment of resources in the various preventive, treatment and other services and schemes concerned with alcohol misuse; and examining the arrangements within and outside government for co-ordinating, developing and enforcing policy on alcohol misuse.

[The Government considers that the reduction of alcohol misuse requires a range of action by central and local government, voluntary and community bodies, the health professions, business and trade unions. Of great importance is the need for individuals to

recognise and accept responsibility for their own health, while attempts to influence the minority who misuse alcohol must, to be realistic, respect the freedom of the majority who use alcohol responsibly. Emphasis should be placed on policies to prevent alcohol misuse and to seek better information about the causes of problem drinking, to encourage healthier life-styles and to provide earlier identification and help for the problem drinker.]

Source: Home Office press notice, 18.9.87.

DRUGS STATISTICS

The latest in an annual series of statistical bulletins on drug seizures, drug offenders and notified drug addicts records falls between 1985 and 1986 in the numbers of seizures of controlled drugs (a drop of 2 per cent), of drug offenders (12 per cent) and notified drug addicts (8 per cent), a particular feature within these falls being the substantial decline in the reported misuse of heroin. Commenting on the figures, Mr Douglas Hogg, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, said that while the falls did not necessarily imply a fall in the level of drug misuse in society in general, it was fair to suggest that the falls in seizures, offenders and addicts might stem partly from a fall in the supply of drugs which in turn might be a product of recent enforcement measures, including a greater concentration on more serious crime.

Source: Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 28/87. £2·50.

THE OPEN COLLEGE

The first programme from the new independent Open College (see p 277, 1986) was broadcast by the Channel 4 television service on 21 September. The College provides courses leading to technical and vocational qualifications using, like the Open University, a combination of television and radio broadcasts, videos, workbooks and learning establishments. Although the Government is to contribute up to £15 million towards its initial funding during the first three years, the aim of the College is to become self-supporting within three years by generating income from commercial and industrial sponsorship (British Aerospace has already made a major contribution to College funds), the sale of materials and students' fees.

Source: Manpower Services Commission press notice, 22.9.87.

THE LONDON COMPACT

The London Compact, an agreement between London schools and industry whose object is to raise standards in schools and thereby to contribute towards inner city regeneration, was launched by the Prince of Wales on 16 September. Under the agreement, a number of schools and firms have formed a comprehensive partnership with mutually agreed objectives. Pupils from those schools will be given priority in recruitment by the participating companies if they achieve given targets in examinations, attendance and so on. The project will be managed by the London Education Business Partnership, a joint venture involving the London Enterprise Agency and the Inner London Education Authority.

Source: Department of Education and Science press notice, 16.9.87.

NEW BROADCASTING STANDARDS COUNCIL

The Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, has announced his intention to establish a new Broadcasting Standards Council concerned with complaints about violence and sex on television and radio programmes. The new Council, which will receive complaints about taste, decency and violence on all forms of television and radio receivable in Britain, including cable and satellite broadcasts, is intended to act as a focus for public concern about the portrayal of sex and violence on these media. It will be able to publicise its findings on individual programmes and take up specific and general complaints with the broadcasters; it will also initiate studies and research on programme standards and their effect on society. The Council will be able to express general views about videos but will not duplicate the functions of the British Board of Film Classification.

The constitutional and editorial independence of the broadcasting authorities will not be affected and the new Council will not take over the broadcasting authorities' existing responsibilities for enforcing broadcasting standards.

The Council will be established as soon as possible and will subsequently be given statutory backing. The existing Broadcasting Complaints Commission will continue to deal with complaints about unjust treatment and the invasion of privacy. The relationship between the new Council and the Commission is under consideration and will be determined in legislation at a later date. The broadcasting authorities and other interested bodies are being consulted about the Government's intentions.

Source: Home Office press notice, 7.10.87.

DOCUMENTATION

External Affairs and Defence

Developments in the European Community. January-June 1987. Cm 205. HMSO, £5. ISBN 0 10 102052 X.

Eleventh Report to Heads of Government by the Commonwealth Secretary-General: Covering the period July 1985 to June 1987. Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX.

Economic and Scientific Affairs

Key Data 87. Provides statistics on a range of information about Britain, including its people, its finances and its industries. The tables and charts draw on a number of Central Statistical Office (CSO) publications. CSO. HMSO, £2·95. ISBN 0 11 620298 X.

Britain's Economy: the 1986 National Accounts. (Reproduced from *Survey of Current Affairs.*) COI, No 288/87.

Britain's Balance of Payments in 1986. (Reproduced from *Survey of Current Affairs.*) COI, No 287/87.

Financial Statement 1987-88: Together with Outturn Statements of Revenue and Expenditure for 1986-87. Department of Finance and Personnel for Northern Ireland. HMSO, Belfast, £2·80. ISBN 0 337 23479 5.

Paying for Local Government: The New Grant System. Explains how the system of central government grants to local authorities in England and Wales will operate after the introduction of the community charge from 1990. Available free from the Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB, and the Welsh Office, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ.

Invisible Trade in the World Economy 1972-85 (see p 328). British Invisible Exports Council, 6th Floor, Dunster House, 37 Mincing Lane, London EC3R 7BQ. £10.

Religious Equality of Opportunity in Employment. Guide to Effective Practice (see p 311). Unpriced. Available from Department of Economic Development, Employment Equality Branch, Netherleigh, Massey Avenue, Belfast BT4 2JP.

Companies in 1986-87. Department of Trade and Industry. Covers developments between 1 January 1986 and 31 March 1987 in order to effect a transition to reporting on the basis of the financial year. Records an increase in staff in the investigation branch as part of the Government's campaign against fraud and misconduct; a rise in the compliance rate for company returns (80 per cent by June 1986); a rise of 13 per cent in the number of companies registered (just over a million, although the 'effective' number is 876,684 on 31 March 1987); and small increases in company liquidations (to 18,930) and winding-up orders (5,761). HMSO, £4·95. ISBN 0 11 513985 0.

Housing and Construction Statistics 1976-1986: Great Britain. HMSO, £25. ISBN 0 11 751879 4.

A Bumper Year for Tourism (see p 325). Available free from the Department of Employment, Steel House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NF.

Tourism '87. Making the Most of Heritage (see p 325). Available free from the Department of Employment, Steel House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NF.

British Tourist Authority. Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 1987 (see p 325). Available from the BTA, Thames Tower, Black's Road, London W6 9EL. £5. ISBN 0 7095 2969 4.

English Tourist Board. Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 1987 (see p 325). Available from the ETB, Thames Tower, Black's Road, London W6 9EL. £5.

A Vision for England: Tourism Strategy (see p. 328). Available free from the English Tourist Board, Thames Tower, Black's Road, London W6 9EL.

Scottish Tourist Board 18th Annual Report 1986-87 (see p 325). Available from the STB at 23 Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh EH4 3EU. £6.

Wales Tourist Board Annual Report for the year ending March 31 1987 (see p 325). Available from the WTB at Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Road, Cardiff CF2 1UY. £5.

Northern Ireland Tourist Board Annual Report 1986-87 (see p 325). Available from the NITB at River House, 48 High Street, Belfast BT1 2DS. £2.

Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce. Report for the Calendar Year 1986. The Board administers the market support measures of the Common Agricultural Policy. Expenditure fell by £120 million to £2,290 million and receipts rose by £244 million to £563 million. Although intervention stocks of butter rose, those for beef, cereals and skimmed milk powder fell

significantly and the value of all stocks declined by £218 million to £1,038 million. Cm 167. HMSO, £6·40. ISBN 0 10 101672 7.

Transport Statistics Great Britain 1976-1986. HMSO, £18·95. ISBN 0 11 550817 1.

Herald of Free Enterprise: Report of Court No 8074. Report of the Court of Formal Investigation into the loss of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* (see p 275). HMSO, £10·50. ISBN 0 11 550828 7.

Air Pollution and Forestry, by J. L. Innes (Forestry Commission Bulletin 70). Gives a technical account of the formation of atmospheric pollutants and describes acidification and its effects on the environment. Continental forest decline, its causes and economic implications are discussed. Details are also given of the Forestry Commission's research into the possible effects of air pollution on trees. HMSO, £2·60. ISBN 0 11 710209 1.

Evaluation of Derelict Land Grant Schemes (see p 329). Roger Tym and Partners in association with Land Use Consultants. Department of the Environment. HMSO, £13·50. ISBN 0 11 752005 5.

Social and Cultural Affairs

Health and Personal Social Services. Statistics for England, 1987. HMSO, £8·95. ISBN 0 11 321094 9.

Statistics of the Misuse of Drugs, United Kingdom 1986. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 28/87 (see p 335). £2·50.

The Misuse of Drugs in Sport. A report by the Minister for Sport, Mr Colin Moynihan, and the Vice Chairman of the Sports Council, Mr Sebastian Coe (see p 334). Available free from the Department of the Environment, Romney House, 43 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3PY.

Housing: The Government's Proposals (see p 331). Cm 214. HMSO, £3·30. ISBN 0 10 102142 9.

Scottish Housing Statistics 1986. Scottish Development Department. HMSO, £10. ISBN 0 11 493395 2.